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THE MILITARY SITUATION.

WILMINGTON.

THE record of the Wilmington expedition is now closed, and it is to be added to the list of failures for the year 1864. The result of the affair was not officially announced at our going to press last week; but, it must be owned, it was sufficiently obvious. Fortunately, this single and comparatively trifling dash of defeat comes in the midst of a great wave of triumph, and it can be borne with equanimity.

Our last summary contained an account of the terrific bombardment of Fort Fisher, the heavy earthwork on the sand and pit along the right bank of Cape Fear River, 20 miles below Wilmington. Some account also was given of the landing of troops above the Fort, to attempt an assault. Admiral PORTER's and General BUTLER's official accounts, and Admiral PORTER's general order for attack, now come in to make the record complete; and these will be found elsewhere in the JOURNAL. We are given to understand that there will be a more elaborate official account of the operations of the Army at Wilmington, not many days hence. Of the series of defences on Cape Fear River, Forts Fisher and Caswell are the most important; and of these, Fort Fisher, with its outer batteries, and rifle trenches, of which the main one is the Half Moon battery, is the only one with which the reports of Admiral PORTER and General BUTLER are greatly concerned. The descriptions of Fort Fisher by various observers strangely conflict. The following is one of the more specific, though doubtless not entirely accurate:

The easterly front carries the main battery of the fort and covers the approach into the channel from seaward. It forms a straight line across the point, its farther angle resting seemingly on the river. The main wall is about eight feet high, with a ditch in front, and is very thick. It carries not less than nine Brooks' rifled guns, of seven and eight-inch bore. Between the guns are very deep and thick traverses of sand, beneath which are bomb-proof quarters for the gunners. These traverses securely protect the guns as well as the gunners, except in case of direct firing, and in that instance the guns are run back, the gunners retire from their pieces, and a continuous cannonading of hours does no harm. On the seaward angle of the fort was a bastion covering the ditch in front of the easterly wall, and also carrying heavy barbette guns. This bastion received the hottest of our fire during the first day's action. The seaward front of the fort is of very peculiar construction. The main wall appears to be from six to eight feet higher than the rest of the work. In front of, and running parallel with it, and flanking its outer wall, or cover, casemated at its eastern end and covered with railroad iron. This cover also protects a formidable battery facing towards the extremity of the point. The main wall of the fort behind this cover carries an escarpment battery as well as several guns in case-mates.

It is pleasant to know that, although the expedition failed, it cost us but few men. Our loss in the fleet was 45 men killed and wounded by our guns, and a much smaller number by the guns of the enemy—perhaps 60 in all. Our total loss in the Army was less than 150. The enemy's loss was between 350 and 400, of which 280 are prisoners now in our hands. The Richmond *Sentinel* says:

General BRAVO has issued a congratulatory order on the defeat of the enemy's grand armada before Wilmington, paying a merited

compliment to Generals WHITING and KIRKLAND, Colonel LAMB, and the officers and men engaged. The enemy's attack on the first day lasted five hours; on the second day, seven hours—firing, altogether, over twenty thousand shots from fifty kinds of vessels. The Confederates responded with six hundred and sixty-two shots on the first day, and six hundred on the second. Our loss is three killed and fifty-five wounded. The ground in the front and rear of the fort is covered with shells, and is torn in deep pits. Two guns in the fort burst, two were dismounted by ourselves, and two by the enemy's fire, yet the fort is unhurt.

Three steamers have run the blockade since the bombardment ceased.

While the expedition was operating against Wilmington, General PALMER made a co-operative move from Plymouth, North Carolina. On the 9th, an expedition left Plymouth, under command of Colonel FRANKLE, and proceeded to Roanoke River, which it reached at Gardner's Bridge, beyond Jamestown. The Ninth New Jersey, which for three years has maintained an unsurpassed reputation for conspicuous gallantry on every field, charged the bridge in column of platoons, and soon swept away the small force which held it. A similar affair occurred at Foster's Mills, beyond, which was the next point where the enemy maintained himself. At Spring Green Church, the Ninth New Jersey and Twenty-seventh Massachusetts again fell upon the enemy, inflicting considerable loss, and capturing 5 officers and 30 men. On the 19th, our forces were reported as moving on Fort Branch. They proceeded to Rainbow Bluff, on the Roanoke, and found the enemy in force. Unfortunately, our gunboats, which were to have co-operated, could not, an account of the torpedoes in the river. Several of our boats, as already reported, were sunk by them. Colonel FRANKLE's expedition has returned to Plymouth. The enemy says:

General LEVENTHORPE attacked the enemy's gunboats and barge below Poplar Point, on the Roanoke River, on the 20th. The fight lasted three hours, when the enemy was repulsed with severe loss. The fight was resumed again on the 21st, when the enemy succeeded in landing some sharpshooters. Their main fleet of gunboats and transports remain below the attacking force.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

We are promised a grand movement by LEE at Richmond, and our Army is alert and expectant. But, of late, GRANT seems to have been little disturbed by the threats of his opponent, and many of our officers took advantage of the lull for Christmas furloughs. On the 23d ult., Generals GREGG, POTTER, AYRES, BRAGG and McALLISTER, with the members of their staffs, were among those that left. On the 19th, a salute of shotted guns was fired in honor of Nashville, and a similar salute on the 26th for Savannah. During the terrific shelling which our forces kept up all day Friday, the 16th, throughout the lines from the Weldon Road to the Appomattox, Lieutenant-Colonel MOSELEY, one of the enemy's officers, was killed. There has been the usual severe picket and artillery firing on the Petersburg lines during the week. Wednesday and Thursday, especially, the 28th and 29th, the artillery exchanges were rapid, severe, and continuous, day and night, and sharp picket skirmishing accompanied them. There were not a few casualties on each side. At daylight of the 31st, our picket line in the region of Forts Wadsworth and Howard was surprised by about 300 of the enemy, who, charging furiously, yelling, and firing rapidly, drove our men back into their main works, hardly giving them a chance to exchange a shot. Our loss was 2 killed, 3 wounded, and 35 captured. The enemy suffered no loss. He captured the blankets, knapsacks, and other property which our pickets left.

Our troops in the main line were soon under arms; but so perfect and successful was the surprise, that

the enemy's party was away out of range, with their spoils, before anything could be re-captured.

The principal news from the Shenandoah Valley is the wounding of the great guerrilla leader MOSBY. An expedition consisting of the Thirteenth and Sixteenth New York and Eighth Illinois cavalry started, on the 17th, to scout on the east side of the Blue Ridge. Next day, Captain TAYLOR's company of the Thirteenth New York surrounded a house near Middleburgh, when a man fired through the window at Corporal KANE. The latter returned it, and dangerously wounded the other. It was MOSBY, who had supposed himself discovered. Our men left the wounded man, without learning that it was MOSBY. At last accounts, he was alive, though in a dangerous condition, at Fredericksburg. About three weeks before, one of MOSBY's captains, MONTJOY, was killed between Leesburgh and the Point of Rocks. Previous to that time, MONTJOY had, according to the Richmond *Sentinel*, wounded or captured 83 men, during his raid.

THE CAMPAIGN IN GEORGIA.

KILPATRICK's raiding column has returned to Savannah from its expedition down the Gulf Railroad. It consisted of three commands. The First and Third brigades of the First division, Seventeenth corps, under General FULLER, left Kingsbridge, on the Ogeechee, on the 17th, and began to destroy the railroad about 20 miles west of the river. First and Third brigades of the Second division, Fifteenth corps, followed on the 18th, and destroyed the 20 miles of road which the other column had passed by. 2500 cavalry under Colonel ATKINS marched directly on the Altamaha Bridge, an important structure. The infantry thoroughly destroyed the Albany and Gulf Railroad for a distance of from 40 to 50 miles, and met trifling opposition. Long experience had taught them to make their work complete and irremediable. The cavalry found the bridge was only to be approached by a narrow trestle-work, spanning a very wide swamp; and this trestle was commanded by two earthworks, on an island at the bridge-head. Our guns could not reach the bridge or the fort; but under cover of a fog, the trestle was fired, and a long stretch of it burned. Accordingly, from Savannah to the Altamaha river, the Gulf railroad has been thoroughly destroyed.

At Savannah all is quiet so far; but, unquestionably, we shall soon hear of new movements in a northerly direction. General GEARY is in command of the city, and it is quiet. It is now said that our loss in capturing it was only about 200 men, and only about 1000 during the movement from Atlanta to Savannah. Rice, cotton, flour, meal, salt, &c., have been found in large quantities in the city.

From Tennessee news comes proving very clearly that HOOD is either across the Tennessee, or so commands that river as to cross it when he pleases. Artillery entirely covers his pontoons at Muscle Shoals, near Florence; and our gunboats are unable to get up within shelling distance of them. The water in the river has of late been falling. General STEADMAN has been trying hard to get upon HOOD's flank, to cut him off before he could reach his pontoons; but the unfortunate condition of the roads has made this move unsuccessful. Meanwhile, railroad communication has been opened again between Nashville and Chattanooga; the first train running through on the 30th. At the same date, General THOMAS's headquarters were at Pulaski. HOOD is said to have reached the Tennessee on the 21st. A dispatch to the Navy Department from Rear-Admiral LEE, dated

Flagship *Fairy*, Chickasaw, Ala., 27th, says he has destroyed a new fort at that point and all the enemy's visible means of crossing the Tennessee below Florence; and on that day blew up two caissons and destroyed two field-pieces there, knocking one into pieces and the other into the river. Several transports, with supplies for General THOMAS' arrived at Chickasaw on the 27th.

The accounts of the battles before Murfreesboro' during HOOD's campaign have been greatly modified by more accurate details. The great defensive work of the town is the enormous earthwork known as Fortress Rosecrans, which was garrisoned by a large force under General ROUSSEAU, reinforced by troops withdrawn from many smaller posts, including those of MILROY from Tullahoma, and of Colonel JOHNSTON from Huntsville. The siege of Murfreesboro' commenced on the 1st of December, by a part of FOREST's cavalry and BATES' infantry. On the 4th, these forces surrounded the blockhouse at Overall's Creek, four miles from the fort, and MILROY, with three regiments of infantry and JOHNSTON's regiment of cavalry, marched out to its relief. A sharp engagement ensued, without great result, except that the enemy did not further press the blockhouse. Our troops retired again to the fortress. Our loss was about 100, the enemy's about the same. On the 7th, MILROY, with eight regiments made a reconnaissance, and encountered the enemy in a severe engagement. Our total loss was 208; the enemy's in killed and wounded was not quite as great, as he fought behind works. But we captured from him 197 prisoners. Our troops then retired to the fortress. For a week after, there was skirmishing every day, and then the enemy retreated.

Late intelligence represents, whether accurately or not, that HOOD first intended to cross at Decatur, but STEEDMAN was too quick for him, and HOOD, seeing the latter's column approach Decatur, turned off to Florence. There, our gunboats compelled his garrison to take up his pontoons and transport them to Bainbridge, where the water was too shoal for the gunboats, and where they would not be under fire. And some difficulties, it is said, have occurred there also, from the width and rapidity of the river. But the great and important fact is that THOMAS's whole Army is once more in motion, and all the sick and wounded have been sent to Nashville.

THE CAMPAIGN IN ALABAMA.

On the 27th of November, General DAVIDSON left Baton Rouge with a force of 4,200 men, in two divisions, under General BAILEY and Colonel DAVIS, 96 wagons, and 8 cannon, for an invasion of Mississippi, in co-operation with SHERMAN's double campaign. On the 1st of December, he reached Tangipahoa, destroyed five miles of the Jackson Railroad, and burned the conscript camp, railroad buildings and bridges. Sparks from the fire lighted the dwelling-houses, and a part of the town was unfortunately consumed. No force resisted him, and he carried off several prisoners and citizens. Governor CLARKE issued a proclamation for his reserves to come out, and Colonel MCCULLOCH's cavalry was rallied to oppose our march. Franklinville, Columbia and Augusta were next visited, the railroad being destroyed at the former point. SCOTT's cavalry force now began to oppose us, and, on the 2d, a sharp skirmish occurred between the Second New York cavalry and a force of the enemy, on the Yazoo City and Vicksburgh Road; 23 of our men were captured, but the loss was not great on either side. On the evening of the 12th, the command arrived again at West Pascagoula, after travel on the most wretched of roads, rendered almost impassable by the rains. The troops had passed over 280 miles of swamp and forest in 15 days. It was ascertained that the enemy had not yet built the important bridge over the Big Black, destroyed by a previous expedition, and so useful to HOOD in transporting his supplies. Guerrilla raids along the Mississippi continued to be troublesome, after DAVIDSON's raid.

On the 13th, a mixed column of three regiments of colored infantry, three squadrons of cavalry, and two guns, under command of Colonel ROBINSON, started from Pensacola, and, on the 16th, cut the Mobile and Great Northern Railroad at Pollard's, 72 miles northeast of Mobile. The dépôt, eight cars, a large amount of stores of various sorts, including 2,000 stand of arms, and a few miles of railroad were destroyed. On

the return, ARMSTEAD's force attacked us, but was severely repulsed, Colonel ARMSTEAD being reported killed. Colonel ROBINSON was wounded, on our part, and our total loss was 75. Seven flags were captured by us.

General GRANGER's expedition landed at Pascagoula on the 15th, and moved towards Mobile. On the 18th, there was a skirmish at Franklin's Creek, in which our forces repulsed the enemy. The troops then continued the march on Mobile.

STONEMAN'S RAID.

In the last number of the JOURNAL, we published the report of General BURBRIDGE upon the destruction of the Saltville salt works. It will be remembered that STONEMAN's command embraced the troops of BURBRIDGE and GILLEM, which marched east from Knoxville on the 18th. JONES' command was dispersed at Kingston, and VAUGHAN'S near Bristol, and again at Marion, whither he retreated, and whence he was again driven. The salt works were defended by about 700 men, who were dispersed. Our entire losses were only a little over 2,000 men. We captured 24 officers and 845 men, 13 railroad trains with engines, and some other cars, and destroyed most or all of the bridges from the New River to the Tennessee line. Many dépôts, factories, mills, and storehouses were also destroyed, and two or three thousand horses and mules, and a large quantity of ammunition, saddles and harness captured.

The report of Chief Engineer KING upon the Navy Yards of Europe was sent to the House on Thursday of last week. He describes at much length the various dépôts, docks, and nautical constructions of England, and upon the Continent, and concludes by saying that we have no such dockyards as are found in England or France, nor such a collection of iron ship building yards as there are in Great Britain. The best of our private yards could not construct one such vessel as the British frigate *Achilles* within three or four years. On account of our low tides, as compared with those of Europe, we need wharf room instead of basins, which are the most expensive of all European dockyard constructions. Of those there are on the Mersey alone eight docks of upward of 400 feet in length; seven of 600, and two of 750—the latter capable of taking in two vessels at once. The interesting fact to ship-building men is stated that, in the estimation of British engineers, fifty per cent. is saved over what was expended in construction twelve years ago by present improved systems of building, separately and collectively—the proper adaptation and distribution of machinery, tools and appliances, and the conveniences within and without the docks, building slips and buildings.

In another place in this issue of the JOURNAL, will be found a communication from General TRUMAN SEYMOUR, addressed to the retired and disabled officers of the Regular Army, calling their attention to a plan for providing the means of establishing a colony of officers at West Point, or its vicinity, where, surrounded by military associations and the memories of youth, they may be able to pass the remnant of their lives, when sickness or wounds have disabled them, or ripe age has procured their retirement from active service. General SEYMOUR gives the particulars of the plan, and it is not necessary that they be repeated here: our duty and privilege is to endorse the suggestion and to press it upon the attention of the Army.

Doubtless, the large number of generous givers in civil life which has never hesitated to provide means for the comfort of the soldier would be glad of such an opportunity of showing its appreciation of meritorious service; and would readily vie in swelling the fund necessary to be raised to suitable proportions. The officers for whom such a colony is proposed could not be objects of charity, but it would be a delicate and fitting testimonial to their gallantry and devotion, if the people should claim the privilege of aiding in surrounding their declining years with the comforts and elegancies of life. A community so established would furnish, not only fine society, but would be a source from which would flow the very best influences. It becomes the Nation, while mindful of its private soldiers, and jealous of their comfort, to be equally solicitous of the officers who have led them in the hour of danger.

A PARTY of twenty gentlemen of this city improved the occasion of the visit of Major-General POTTER, of the 9th corps, to New York, on a ten days' leave of absence, to offer him the compliment of a dinner at the Atheneum Club, of which General POTTER was formerly a member. Among the gentlemen present upon the occasion were W. C. Bryant, Esq., Richard Grant White, Esq., Hiram Barney, Esq., John Austin Stevens, Jr., W. T. Blodgett, Esq., Dr. Francis Lieber, and other well known citizens of New York.

THE USE OF FIELD ARTILLERY.

NO. II.

The posting of the batteries when an action is about to take place should be thoroughly in keeping with the objects which the commander-in-chief proposes to himself. In this connection much depends on the Artillery profiting to the utmost by the nature of the ground, and at the same time not interfering with the movements of the army. It is for this reason that the commander-in-chief must necessarily give to the commandant of Artillery some insight into the general plan for the battle.

The heavier calibres serve to reinforce the weakest or the most important points of the front, as also any re-entrant angles formed by irregularities in the line. The lighter calibres support the points of ordinary importance and the salient angles of the point. The reserve batteries are so placed that they shall not be exposed to the enemy's fire until they are called into action, and so that they may be easily thrown to any point as they are needed.

The "line Artillery" commonly opens the action; but their general firing upon the enemy's line is only a demonstration whose object is to conceal as long as possible the real point of attack. A cloud of skirmishers and light pieces precede the line, or columns of battalions, which make for this point, where it is expected to decide the battle. The great art is to busy the enemy, in every direction, and by the employment of the least possible number of one's own troops; and to keep him, up to the latest possible moment, in ignorance of the real point of attack. Only when one has succeeded to some extent in shattering the enemy on his whole front, ought the reserves to be made use of. In order, subsequently, to decide the victory more speedily and surely, it is a good plan to concentrate a great part of one's pieces on one main point. NAPOLEON with this in view, often used 80 or even 100 pieces at once. Notwithstanding, for the possible case of want of success in the grand attack, and in order, then to have a secure protection for the crowded masses of troops as they withdraw, one must have a large amount of Horse Artillery; as it only, by reason of its rapid movements on the field, can check the pursuit of an enemy flushed with success. In every battle the reserves must be kept back for the decisive moment.

One duty of the Artillery is to prepare the way for all bayonet and cavalry attacks; that is, while previously to the actual charge a part draws off, on to itself, the fire of the enemy's pieces, another part does its utmost to shatter the squares, columns or lines which it is proposed to attack.

In all battles VILLAGES* are points of special importance. There are two cases, either one may wish to defend a village which they already hold, or, one may wish to take one held by the enemy.

Remark 1st.—Artillery should never be placed inside of the village, excepting the case in which it is to be defended to the last extremity, and then, the village must be fortified or in some special way be put into a state for defence. In other cases the Artillery, in advancing or retreating, since it can only move slowly, would very much hinder the infantry; and, should the buildings take fire there would be little chance of escape. In common cases of defence, the pieces must be placed on both sides of a village so as to protect by a cross-fire the entrance to it; and then even should the columns which have suffered from its fire press on them will be more liable to be driven back by a bayonet-charge of the infantry. In rear of the village, Horse Artillery should be placed, to meet any attempt of the enemy to take it from this direction. In the defence of villages used as *points d'appui* of a line of battle, the conduct of the Artillery will be varied according to, whether they are to be held obstinately; whether they are to be used as points from which the main attack upon the enemy is to be supported; or whether they are occupied merely as temporary *points d'appui*. In any case an accurate knowledge of the topographical relations of the place is necessary; of its buildings, hedges, ditches; of the approaches in front and lines of retreat in rear. In the first case (an obstinate defence), the strongest flank positions and such as will give a cross-fire on the roads leading to the village must be taken up; all approaches must be barricaded, and, bodies of infantry must be at hand, in order, should any point be lost, to make certain that the next position will be maintained, until by the speedy arrival of the reserves, an attempt may be made to regain the first one. In the second case (holding a village so as to support the main attack), communications to the front must be opened so that the Artillery from the village may not be obliged to crowd into the same roads used by the attacking columns. At the same time the most advantageous positions must be taken up for supporting the advance by a cross-fire. In the third case (that of a village held merely for a temporary point of

* Villages or hamlets (it is well known) occur in Continental Europe every few miles. This is particularly the case in Germany, where the farm laborers all live in them and often walk long distances to their work. Villages are, therefore, so many little fortresses ready to hand on the battle-field, and, of course, their possession as *points d'appui* is a grand object in every engagement.

support), all the roads of communication from it must be well secured, so that the Artillery may not be cut off from the main body by some sudden and rapid attack of the enemy.

Remark 2d.—In the taking of villages it may be that the Artillery is employed in order to set them on fire, which is accomplished by means of shells. This, however, is only done when very much depends on driving the enemy out, at any cost. Should the village lie on the line by which one's own army must pass in advancing, it will be the interest of the enemy to set it on fire. Then, the object is to drive him out by the use of solid shot, and pieces of large calibre will be the best. With this last intention, positions must be sought out, from which a ricochetting fire may be obtained, so as to destroy the batteries by which the enemy may seek to hold in check the attacking columns. In the taking of villages it is not enough to attack them in front; they should also be flanked, and if possible attacked in rear; for this purpose Horse Artillery is used.

Every battle is either *won*, *lost*, or of *doubtful* issue.

In the first case, a *battle won*, one must have means at hand wherewith to profit by the victory and to follow up the enemy as closely as it is in any way possible. So soon as the enemy has restored order in his ranks, and can again offer a continued resistance, he must be pursued with Artillery consisting principally of pieces of *large calibres*; the object being to terrify his troops; but while he is in confusion and alarm, then the *Horse Artillery* and cavalry have a fine field for their exertions. The *heavier Artillery*, however, must follow closely, in order, should the enemy find a good position, where he might re-establish order in his ranks, not to allow him any time to profit by it. In a pursuit it may sometimes be requisite to have light pieces do their best against breastworks, *i. e.*, when heavier calibres are wanting, or with Foot Artillery, by causing a certain number of the cannoneers to mount the boges to move at greater speed when Horse Artillery is not at hand.

In the second case, a *battle lost*, all depends upon securing the retreat, and using every means for taking up a new position, at some distance off. To this end some heavy batteries must be posted, as early as possible, in a position selected before hand, so that the army under this cover may rally again and form a new line of battle; the rest of the batteries remain with their command and the reserve Artillery covers the rear-guard. A furious pursuit on the part of the enemy in an open country will be checked by the Cavalry and Horse Artillery; in an uneven or wooded country the pursuit will naturally be slower, and the inequalities of the ground will allow the Artillery a prolonged working.

In the third case, the *issue doubtful*, the battle must be again begun, or one of the combatants withdraws under cover of the night; in either case the manner of using the Artillery is given above.

It has been already mentioned that Horse Artillery is better fitted for service with the rear-guard than Foot Artillery. Commonly the main body of the rear-guard retreats along the principal road, one section of artillery posts itself across the road, while both on the right and left of the road are placed one or more sections. One half the pieces fire solid shot, the other half *leads* with canister, and is thus prepared to drive back any too closely pressed onset of the enemy. The section on the road fires first, and, not until it limbers up, do the sections to each side open a cross-fire, which they then keep up until the first-named section has taken a new position, &c.

When a defile* occurs which must be passed upon the line of retreat, the rear section covers the entrance, and endeavors to hold it to the last extremity; should it have fired its last round of canister, the infantry formed in mass must protect its withdrawal with the bayonet. If despite of all this the enemy gains the defile, the infantry retires to the right and left, so as to unmask the fire of the Artillery which has taken up a new position in rear. The rear-guard should be impressed with the conviction, that it is their duty to devote themselves for the preservation of the rest of the Army.

The chief duty of the advance guard in preparing for a battle is to keep the enemy busy so long that the main body may have time to get ready its line of battle; for this reason every advanced guard must have its advanced and flanking detachments; a principal main body for fighting; and behind this, other bodies of troops, which keep up the connection with the main army. The Artillery which accompanies the advanced guard should be divided into two parts. The *first* part, composed principally of Horse Artillery, marches at the head of the main body of the advanced guard, that is, in rear of the advanced detachment. The *second* part, made up of Foot Artillery, brings up the rear of the main body of the advanced guard. Immediately on a rencontre with the enemy, the Horse Artillery, at a gallop, takes up a position, and with all possible rapidity opens its fire. When the Foot Artillery arrives

its pieces take up the combat in the positions occupied by the Horse Artillery, the Horse Artillery ceases to fire and acts afterwards only as a reserve to the Foot Artillery. As the battle goes on the use of the Artillery must be adapted to its varied phases.

A part of the army may be detached and ordered on some special undertaking. It may, in this way, be directed to occupy a position much in advance of the main body, with the view of keeping the enemy steadily at a considerable distance, or, by teasing and fatiguing him, to draw him into some disadvantageous movement. Such bodies of troops must then be continually subject to becoming independently engaged in actions which they either bring on or accept. These are called *outpost actions (affaires de postes)*. The Artillery which accompanies such bodies must take with it as few train-carriages as possible; and must during an engagement be distributed to the various divisions. These last, if they understand how to make the best use of broken ground, and how to vary and change their positions, will impress the enemy (who thus finds himself attacked from every quarter) with a high idea of the number of batteries opposed to him. On this account the Artillery must engage in no *prolonged* cannonades, for the enemy might profit by such to mask his movements. In such skirmish-battles Artillery must, even more than on any other occasion, adapt itself to the movements of the other troops; otherwise it might easily be cut off, and finally in the selection of positions, it should, on these occasions, give preference to those in which small bodies may fight to the greatest advantage.

The taking and defending of fortified positions has always an exact relation to the locality and to the nature and quality of the defensive works. As relates to the *defence* it can only be said, in general terms, that the Artillery should, so far as possible, cover every point of access with a cross-fire. The weakest points, as well as those at which an attack may be confidently expected, also, all gates, outlets, &c., &c., should be carefully defended with the heavier guns. The lighter pieces on the contrary are assigned to the *reserve*. These latter may, if brought into action, first at one point, then at another, work with great effect by their cross-fire upon the advancing enemy. Should Horse Artillery be present, its rôle is to accompany all sorties, and, also, should the enemy be driven back, to assist in the pursuit.

As relates to the *taking* of fortified positions, the task of the Artillery is to make breaches in the walls, breastworks, pallisades, &c., and if there be any thing combustible within, to set it on fire by means of shells or rockets. Should the position be one strong by nature, or thoroughly fortified, the batteries intended for breaching the works will need to construct trenches.

When the enemy is on the opposite side of a river, and defends the passage, the Artillery must facilitate the preparations for crossing. With the design of throwing a bridge across a stream, a bend in its course, convex towards one's own side is selected. The batteries on one's flanks can then keep off the enemy, and at the same time have fair play at his batteries.* The troops, as they cross the bridge, can readily form themselves in the opposite concavity, since their flanks are protected by the water and their own batteries. In choosing a point of crossing, attention should be given to having a command from one's own bank of the stream over that opposite; this, however, should not be too considerable, for the descent to the water will then be difficult, and the shot will plough too much. On the opposite side of the stream there should be no hamlet, hedges or ditches near the bank, for the sharpshooters posted in them would very much annoy the pontooneers; there should also be no water courses, for the troops would then after crossing find no room for deploying. All ditches discovered must at once be filled, so as to give passage to the Artillery. The bridges are thrown by preference where the river is narrowest, least rapid, and where islets are found, since it is always easier to build two short bridges than one long one.

Since Artillery is effectual only against the enemy's column and cannon, it can do nothing to hinder the creeping up of individual sharpshooters. To guard against this danger, a few companies of infantry with a couple of guns, at once cross over by swimming. The cannoneers dismount the pieces and put the guns themselves into small boats, which they draw after them by ropes, and, arrived on the opposite bank, they again mount them; the horses likewise swim over. This operation should not occupy more than one hour and a half if the river be of moderate breadth. Should the river, however, be broader than gunshot distance (300 yards?) floating batteries are mounted on rafts.

If one be opposing the enemy's passage of a river, the Artillery must fire upon the enemy's columns which collect at the point of crossing. If they are actually engaged in crossing, it must seek to enfilade the bridge with solid

shot and rake the flanks with canister. It must also endeavor to prevent the deployment of any column which may have succeeded in passing over.

As a *general* rule, Artillery can only defend itself when its pieces are unlimbered, and then its fire can only be to the front. In order to defend itself in rear or at the flanks, the pieces must be moved, and for this purpose, intermediately limbered up. During the time that it is moving, and while the pieces are limbered, Artillery is defenceless, and needs the help of such troops as are instantly and continually ready for defence. For this purpose the little number of its cannoneers is not sufficient, and other troops must be detailed, who are called the *support*. Artillery should never operate in the field without such aid. The supports for Foot Artillery should be of infantry, those for Horse Artillery, of cavalry. It is a general notion of the troops of both these arms that such supporting service is uncommonly dangerous. The danger, whatever it be, will however, be lessened, if they are judiciously posted with reference to the ground, and it seldom happens that the ground is of a nature to require the complete exposure of the supports to the enemy's fire. Infantry can profit by the slightest undulations, and cavalry can always stand a little withdrawn. It should be mentioned that with the batteries on the extreme flanks, the supports must be posted outside, and therefore it would be well to provide them with spades, so that in case of necessity, they may throw up breastworks.

MODIFIED INFANTRY TACTICS.*

At the opening of the great conflict, the majority of our soldiers had not only to make war, but to learn how to make war. Moreover, the conditions under which they were compelled to fight necessitated entirely new adaptations of the existing rules and discipline of warfare. While in a state of peace the tight, constraining uniform, the heavy padded saddle, the large, costly tent, the short-range musket, and the complicated, fatiguing, tedious and imposing rectilinear system of tactics were regarded as sufficiently good, being in imitation of European customs, and our own experience in the field not having suggested useful changes. But the theatre of our present war, covering a vast extent of country containing forests, swamps and mountains, our campaigns differ widely in many respects from those of thickly-settled Europe. Our troops are compelled to take long marches, and frequently to manoeuvre and form lines of battle in dense woods, where the only practicable method is to march battalions and subdivisions by their *flanks*, and where simultaneous movements are impossible. Battalion and higher commanders have consequently been forced to adopt "flank movements." A distinguished corps commander at one time remarked, while conversing on this subject: "Here we are in the field with virtually *no tactics*."

General Morris, desiring to increase the efficiency of his command, reduced these movements to a system, which he published under the title of "Field Tactics for Infantry." The work was well received by officers of high rank, and many of them requested the General to make the system complete, by adding the Schools of the Soldier and Company. This he has accordingly done. First discarding everything in the old systems which was not of *use in the field*, he then modified those movements retained, so as to substitute the march of subdivisions by their *flank* instead of by their front, and also to prescribe in all cases, the *shortest* paths, instead of the square work of former days. Besides this, he has added some few movements to make the system complete, and has reduced the work to two volumes containing only about five hundred pages.

At the time "Hardee's" Tactics were prepared from French translations, it was thought that the short rifle would become the general arm for infantry. The manual of arms was consequently made to suit it. The arm in almost universal use at present is the rifled musket. General Morris has revised the manual of arms so as to be applicable for this piece. He has simplified the School of the Company, and has omitted much which he regarded as superfluous. The column by company having ceased to be employed, except on occasions of ceremony, many movements have been discarded which were formerly prescribed for that formation. He has taken care to reject what has been found by experience to be superfluous commands, and has omitted such portions of commands as seemed unnecessary. The "fixed pivot" in wheels has been abolished. In the Schools of the Battalion and the Brigade, in order that their object may be more easily understood by the student, the movements and evolutions have been so arranged, when practicable, that each leads to the one succeeding.

The habitual march of infantry being in a column of fours—formed by facing the battalion in line, to the right or left—many of the movements are prescribed from a column so marching, in order to avoid the unnecessary de-

* INFANTRY TACTICS; comprising the School of the Soldier; School of the Company; Instruction for Skirmishers; School of the Battalion; Evolutions of the Brigade; and Directions for manœuvring the Division and the Corps d'Armée. By Brigadier-General WM. H. MORRIS, U. S. Vol., and late Second U. S. Infantry. New York: D. VAN NOSTRAND.

* A defile is any narrowing in the road which obliges a line or column to reduce its front.

* The grand point is, that whoever holds the convex side may keep the opposite concavity clear.

lay of intermediate intricate movements; and also not to arrest the march of the column still on the road. The tabular form used by General LE LONTEREL of the French Army, and successfully employed by Captain CORPE in his admirable abridgment of infantry tactics, is adopted in the brigade evolutions, to distinguish the commands of the general and of the colonels, and the order in which those of the latter follow those of the former. It is an arrangement which has been found valuable also, as an aid for the memory.

Although this system has been prepared for troops in the field where woods and swamps abound and columns have to march along narrow roads, it is equally applicable for open country.

The chief objects which General MORRIS has sought to attain are *celerity, simplicity, and the least fatigue to the men.*

General MORRIS is well fitted for the important task of preparing a system of tactics. He has received a thorough military education at West Point, has served in the field throughout the entire war, has commanded the company, the battalion, the brigade, and the division of infantry; and has had under his command, at various times, troops of all the arms in service.

The typography of the book is original and admirable; and every movement is illustrated by simple diagrams.

THE TECHNOLOGY OF WARS AND FACTIONS.

It will serve a good purpose to briefly consider and define certain words which the present civil war has brought into frequent use, and to point out their proper distinctions and limitations. The importance of this will be manifest, when it is considered that these words, either through ignorance or carelessness, have come to be used in a very loose and inaccurate manner, and that endless confusion and error have been the result. Some of these distinctions are very nice and technical, yet they exist; and a proper understanding of many questions and discussions of public interest requires that they should not be lost sight of.

1. *War.*—This word is not at present used with its ancient signification, *Werra*, its old German origin, signified a *quarrel* or *embroilment*, and hence might include petty feuds and *guerrillas*. It signified a contest between warriors rather than between belligerents. At present *fehde*, in the German, signifies a *federal* or *partizan* war, and *fehdebrief*, a declaration of such a war; whilst *krieg* (originally from *kriegen*, to lay hold of for the purpose of acquiring), has come to mean war in that large sense expressed by the Latin *bellum*, French *guerre*, and Spanish *guerra*. The strictest modern idea of war is nearly analogous to the Roman *bellum*; which, being another form for *duellum*, signified an armed contest between *two* governments. Thus in belligerent, and in rebellion, was formerly included the idea of *duelling* on an immense scale. Hence, some modern publicists say a "perfect war" is one in which an entire nation in arms contends with another entire nation in arms. Within this definition, the case of a stronger nation overrunning and overwhelming a weaker one which was unable to seriously oppose its invader, would obviously not be included. Hence this latter case would properly fall within the definition of "imperfect war." So would the case of a war limited in its operations, or waged for a specific purpose, not contemplating the reducing of the enemy to terms. Other kinds of war are defined by the writers; such as "war of conquest," "war of defence," "independence," &c.; but these distinctions are obvious enough from the names themselves. A perfect, or international war is properly preceded by a formal declaration of war, and succeeded by a formal treaty of peace. Each hostile nation is called a *belligerent*; while each individual owing allegiance to one of these belligerents, is, whether citizen or soldier, an *enemy* to the other belligerent.

2. *Civil War.*—This term is used in contra-distinction to international war. It is not necessarily either revolution or rebellion; since rebels or revolutionists may not be opposed by armed forces, in which case there is in strictness no war. In civil wars neutrals have generally insisted that the great parties are belligerents, and that they shall be bound by the same laws of war as are binding in international wars. As civil war is usually in consequence of rebellion, insurrection, or attempt at revolution, a declaration of war is not supposed to be previously made; nor is a treaty of peace supposed to be requisite to its conclusion. The actors in a civil war are punishable or not, accordingly as they are guilty of treason, of unjustifiable rebellion or insurrection.

3. *Guerrilla.*—This word being a diminutive of the Spanish *guerra*, war, signifies *pestil* war. Little need be said concerning the actors therein, who are properly called *guerrilleros*. They are lawless and irresponsible; are not enlisted, organized, or paid by the government in whose behalf they assume to act. They are outlaws, and their acts instead of being acts of war, are murder, robbery, &c. Hence when in the hands of their captors, they are not

entitled to be treated as prisoners of war; and the government which recognizes them as part of its army, cannot thereafter claim immunity from such acts of its opponent belligerent as would otherwise be prohibited by the laws of war. A *guerrillero* may be punished in the civil courts like any other individual, according to the nature of his crime in each case.

4. *Revolution.*—This word has been frequently used in an erroneous sense. Perhaps this is because the word rebellion (for which it has been substituted) has been supposed to signify a less meritorious act. A revolution is in strictness a *complete overturning*: hence when applied to a combination of individuals acting against their government, it means the overthrow and deposition (either peaceably, or through the agency of civil war) of the former sovereign power, and the assumption thereof as a *new* government, by the revolutionists. There has consequently never been a revolution in this country; and the phase "War of the Revolution," as applied to the struggle by which we accomplished our independence, is a misnomer. Had the result of that war been the dethronement of GEORGE III., and the accession of some other person to the throne, then there would indeed have been a revolution. A revolution can occur in this country, only when our PRESIDENT is deposed, and government overthrown. When this shall be done, it will be by the majority, and therefore like all other revolutions, will be justifiable. Unlike a rebellion, a revolution is the act of the *majority*, and is therefore in legal acceptance, the act of the *whole people*, doing what it pleases with its own government. Notable instances of revolutions are those of 1688 in England; 1789-'93 and 1848 in France; 1730 in Russia; and 1852-'53 in Mexico. Of course a revolutionist *as such*, is unpunishable; but a violent and unsuccessful attempt to revolutionize is treason.

5. *Rebellion.*—This is sometimes justifiable, and perhaps more often so than otherwise, since it is the act of a conquered people, risen in arms against its conqueror. It is therefore a *renewed war* or *duel*, as its name indicates. The rebellions of Hungary in 1848; Ireland in 1798 and 1803; Poland in 1831; Greece 1822-'28; are instances of strict rebellions, justifiable, because the rebels in each case had for their object the regaining of an independence of which they had been deprived by their conquerors. If any were unjustifiable, it was because the rebels formed a minority of the conquered people, a majority of whom preferred to be governed by their conqueror.

We have seen that our colonial war with Great Britain was not "revolution"; neither was it rebellion, although more nearly the latter than the former. We shall presently see that like our civil war it was *insurrection*. One who owes a voluntary allegiance to a government, cannot in strictness be a rebel against *that* government. The negroes of the Haytien rebellion, and the Sepoys of the Indian rebellions, were rebels against France and England respectively. A rebel cannot be a traitor, for he is not making war upon a government to which he owes allegiance of his own choice. Nevertheless, he is guilty of a violation of a law of war, which requires that a people when fairly conquered, without oppression, shall render due submission as subjects to their conqueror. Unless, therefore, the rebels regain their independence, they will be liable to civil punishment, which is in some countries the same as that for treason.

In France, *rébellion* is a name given to what is made a statutory crime, or misdemeanor, according to circumstances. The offence consists of such acts as in this country would constitute *routs, riots, and unlawful assemblies*, and its punishment is compulsory labor for a term of years, or close confinement. (Bouillet, *Dict. Univ. des Sci., des Let., et des Arts.*)

6. *Insurrection.*—This means an *internal uprising* of a portion of the people in opposition to their government, or a portion thereof. And the uprising need not be *avowedly* against the government, provided it so operates as to imperil its existence or ignore its binding authority. Insurrection is sometimes treason, but not always so. SHAY's Rebellion, Dorr's Rebellion (both improperly so called), and the present armed opposition of the Secessionists are instances of flagrant and punishable insurrection; and, in the latter case, the voluntary insurgents are undoubtedly guilty of treason. Our insurrection of 1776 (commonly called by us "Revolution," and by the British "Rebellion") was justifiable, because the insurgent colonies arose in *self-defence*, against oppression which was being enforced by fleets and armies. It must be borne in mind that the Colonies did not initiate war by declaring their independence upon Great Britain. On the contrary, independence was not declared until after years of petition and remonstrance to the British throne, and a year of invasion by British hostile forces.

The "Whiskey Insurrection" of 1793-'94 was in opposition to an excise law of Congress passed in 1791. The number of insurgents in arms has been estimated at seven thousand. President WASHINGTON after making his third proclamation to the insurgents—reasoning with them, and

exhorting them to obey the laws—called out militia to the number of twelve thousand, to suppress the insurrection. Some of the insurgents were indicted for treason, and there were several convictions; but the convicts were pardoned. In Massachusetts there were sixteen capital convictions of treason by assisting "SHAY's Rebellion" (insurrection), but there were no executions. Under the law of Congress of 1795, the PRESIDENT was authorized to suppress insurrection—using adequate militia therefor, if need be, "until the expiration of thirty days after the commencement of the then next session of Congress." And by the law of July 17, 1862, it is provided that if any person shall assist in any "rebellion or insurrection" against the authority of the United States, "such person shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding ten years, or by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars," &c. So that insurrection is there recognized as distinct from treason, and meriting a milder punishment. While the leading secessionists are guilty of treason, their followers are guilty of insurrection only.

The question of punishment of rebels, insurgents, and seditionists, is oftener one of expediency, than of right. A foreign publicist (*Principios de Derecho internacional, por Bello, cap. x, page 267*) says: "When a sovereign has conquered the party which opposed him, and compelled it to sue for peace, it is customary to grant it a general amnesty—excepting therefrom the authors and chiefs, "who may be punished according to the laws."

An alien may be guilty of insurrection, since allegiance is not involved in the offence.

As to the incorrect use of the word "revolution" instead of insurrection, as applied to our struggle for independence, it is not probable that such use, now that it has the sanction of custom, will be discontinued. Nor will it perhaps be generally considered that the present civil war is rather insurrectionary, than rebellious.

7. *Sedition.*—This, like insurrection, is an uprising of a portion of the people; but they are *sworn*, more formal, and less violent and precipitate. Taken literally, it means a *going-astray*; from *sed* (for *se*), *aside*; and *itio* a *going*.

Probably sedition in this country can never amount to treason. Yet the treacherous conspiracy of the insurgents to bring about the present civil war, in its inception was sedition. In England it has long been a punishable offence. In the United States it was provided by the law of 1798, "that if any person shall write, print, utter, publish . . . scandalous and malicious writings . . . against Congress or the PRESIDENT of the United States, or stir up sedition to oppose any law of the United States . . . such person shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and imprisonment not to exceed two years." This law by its own terms expired on the 3d March, 1801. Under it there were four convictions and punishments.

An individual may be guilty of this crime without being in league with any other person; but the offence is, of course, greater in degree, where it involves the element of conspiracy. Probably an alien may be a seditionist, as renunciation of one's allegiance does not seem to form a portion of the crime.

8. *Treason.*—The gist of this crime, as appears from its etymology, is *perfidy*, or the *betrayal* of one's government by one who owes *allegiance* to that government. The Constitution prescribes that some overt act of war shall be necessary to a conviction; but it does not declare that *all* such acts shall constitute treason. The law of Congress of April 30, 1790, provides that "if any person or persons owing allegiance to the United States of America shall levy war against them . . . such person or persons shall be adjudged guilty of treason against the United States, and shall suffer death." In England, however, it was held that the betrayal of such qualified allegiance as was due to HENRY VI. and EDWARD IV. (who were only sovereigns *de facto*) was sufficient to constitute treason. Probably no conviction, or, if a conviction, no execution, could now be had in this country against an alien as a traitor. Nor against a citizen who had simply opposed the execution of some particular law, or had done any other act which did not involve the renunciation of allegiance, or the levying of war against the Government. In the case of the United States *v. Wiltberger* (5 Wh. 97) it was held that treason cannot be committed except by one who owes allegiance, either permanent or temporary. Nor can *mispriision of treason*. The latter crime is defined and punished by the statute of 1790 above referred to. And there are some decisions which seem to have decided that a forcible and violent resistance, by a riotous assembly, against the execution of a law of the United States, is a "levying of war" within the meaning of the statutes. One who levies war is guilty of treason both against the United States, and against that particular State within which is his field of operations.

9. *Secession.*—This, in politics, signifies a withdrawal by a state or states from fellowship and community of interest with other states, under a claim of right to do so by the terms or construction of the Constitution or instrument of

association. Hence it is not insisted upon as a revolutionary right (JEFFERSON DAVIS said in his inaugural address, it was an "abuse of language" to call it "revolution"); but as existing *under the contract*, or consistently with it; and the seceding party makes itself the sole judge of the opportunity and occasion for secession. In the United States it amounts to the preposterous pretension that the organic instrument of association, which at first established that the "Union shall be perpetual," and afterwards that it shall be still "more perfect," contains by implication a provision for its own invalidity and destruction.

Until the passage of another sedition law, it is not probable that the mere secessionist will be punishable. It may be, however, that he is punishable under the second section of the act of July 17, 1862, as one who "incites to insurrection."

10. *Nullification.*—This is the peaceably, but in an unauthorized manner, *making void* a law of Congress; but one who, without actually succeeding in nullification, uses his voice, pen, and influence in advocacy of this object, is called a nullifier. It is more pardonable than secession, and yet it is quite as unlawful. It may not be uninteresting to some to know, as a matter of history, that Mr. CALHOUN, the father of the doctrine of nullification, "denied the right of secession." Hon. REVEREND JOHNSON says, "this last (secession) he never with me placed on any other ground than that of revolution. This, he said, was to 'destroy the Government; and no Constitution the work of 'sane men ever provided for its own destruction'" (Address of Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, July 4, 1861).

It is only necessary to add that when a law is unconstitutional, there are two legitimate ways of making it void, by repeal and by a direct decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

VICE-ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.

It has passed into a proverb that no man is a hero to those who are most familiar with him. This, like all other rules, however, has wonderful exceptions. One of these is Vice-Admiral FARRAGUT. To know him in private life is to recognize the reality of TENNYSON's lines descriptive of WELLINGTON. In that case the eulogy was a sketch of the poet's imagination; in this, FARRAGUT's, it is nothing more than sober truth:

Render thanks to the Giver,
England, for thy son.

* * * * *
Foremost captain of his time,
Rich, in saving common sense,
And, as the greatest only are,
In his simplicity sublime.

* * * * *
O, voice from which their omens all men drew,
O, from nerve to true occasion true,
O, * * * * * tower of strength
Which stood four-square to all the winds that blew!

After an hour's interview, any one who converses with this, our first Vice-Admiral, must understand why he was invariably successful. His rule is undivided command and responsibility, careful preparation and vigorous execution. It is the peculiarity of his mind to extract that which is really useful from the mass of counsel offered, estimating, as he should, that a commander-in-chief ought always surround himself by the best talent his command will afford.

In this way, one has the opportunity of hearing the suggestions of a number of men, each possessing one or more particular gifts, and, of himself, digesting the whole, or selecting that opinion which appears the wisest. Two decisions at which FARRAGUT arrived are sufficient to furnish an estimate of the man. When the chain between Forts Jackson and Philip was cut, and the boats, supporting it, sagged asunder—prevented from swinging by the anchors to which each rode—there was left in the centre a gap or passage-way like the opening of a draw-bridge. Thereupon the Rebels built, lit, and maintained large fires on either side of the river, so that when FARRAGUT should attempt to pass by night, their blaze would not only render his movements visible to every battery, but enable the forts to bring complete cross-fire to bear upon him. Some of the Admiral's officers suggested that nothing would be easier than to send a few boat-crews ashore and extinguish the fires. "No! no! by no means," said the commander, "those fires are the light-houses by which I intend to steam through the gap in the chain; throw a few shells or shot at them, to give the Rebels an idea that we want them to put them out, and thus incite them to more strenuous exertions to keep them bright and alive." The result proved the wisdom of the Admiral's instant decision of mind. The fires burned on throughout that triumphant night, and by their illumination, FARRAGUT laid his course to New Orleans, to victory and to the glory of having won, by his skill and courage, the title of the greatest seaman in the world.

Again, at Mobile, he determined to go in with the strong flood tide, because, in case a vessel was hit and partially disabled, it would not stop and drift astern, but must float onwards into and with the fight. In his triumph at New Orleans, Port Hudson and Vicksburg, almost the greatest difficulty which he had encountered was the rapidity and adverse force of the Mississippi current. If a vessel was hit it had to drift astern into the fire, or out of the circle of service. This he felt would never do, and the result shows how correct was his judgment. With the flood every ship made its way into the bay; and the *Oneida*, which was last, realized that its position on the rear was the most serious one, since the forts, silenced by the sustained fire of the whole line, reopened upon the sternmost vessel, when the weight and frequency of the leading vessels' broadsides had slackened. FARRAGUT, in assuming the lead, demonstrated the truth of a military aphorism, that audacity and presence of mind constitute armor and arms of proof. "Fortis non deficit tulum" has grown out of this idea. The fact that

the foremost and bravest so often conquer and survive, may explain the fable of ACHILLES, vulnerable only in the heel. Our Vice-Admiral, however, has a stouter shield—Faith. His trust in the God of Battles and Nations is a beautiful trait in the character of our great naval hero.

The fact of the Admiral ascending the rigging and being lashed to the mast is, also, somewhat a subject of misapprehension. This, as everything else, was an instance of his superlative judgment. Fearlessly conspicuous, he first assumed a position upon the rail in order that he might be able to overlook the smoke. As the smoke rose and became denser, so as to interrupt his view of the enemy's movements he gradually mounted higher and higher up the rigging, until he found himself leaning against one of the futtock shrouds, immediately under the top. While, thus there, marked object aloft, Captain PARNIVAL DRAFTON, who commanded the *Hartford*, fearing that if the Admiral was hit and lost, or was unable to retain his hold, he would be killed by a fall from such height, sent a quartermaster aloft to request FARRAGUT to allow himself to be lashed fast. Captain DRAFTON had good reason for this anxiety in regard to his commander, since, after the action, quite a large piece of shell was taken out of the flooring of the top, immediately overhead, above where the Admiral stood. FARRAGUT's position must have been a very ticklish one to an observer, since he actually supposed that the mast had been struck, from the frequent shocks occasioned by the heavy recoil of the howitzer, which by his orders was roaring from the top immediately above him. By the way, it was the Admiral that suggested this arming the tops with artillery; and the guns in them did good execution, having an opportunity to take uninterrupted aim and fire directly over every obstacle into the forts.

"Thy country loves thee well, thou famous man,
The greatest sailor since our world began!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

THE BATTLE IN MOBILE BAY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I have seen and read with great pain, the communication addressed to your journal, and published in the issue of November 19th, 1864, under the caption of "The Battle in Mobile Bay."

Your correspondent, who bespeaks for himself a favorable impression as to his motives in becoming the advocate of not only his own, but also the claims of others, to a more marked notice than has been accorded in the Admiral's report, seems to have been entirely oblivious of the dangerous ground upon which he was treading, in advancing claims of some at least, named in his list of neglected, who neither authorized him to use their names, nor thank him for his gratuitous, though possibly, well-intentioned interference.

With, possibly the best intentions, your correspondent has been exceedingly unfortunate. His view, or review of Admiral FARRAGUT's report, instead of being a criticism exhibiting omissions of facts in the detailed report of that great victory, is, unfortunately for the writer, and for that harmony in the service which he no doubt in common with all gallant men desires, a most insidious and unjustifiable attack upon that heroic, gallant, and truly beloved officer, and that, too, apparently, for want of a correct knowledge of the facts to justify either the criticism or attack.

It will not be deemed uncharitable by some of those who participated in the action of August 5th, 1864, in Mobile Bay, to say in reply to your correspondent's statements, that he has either for want of correct information—not having seen as others saw, or by design, laid himself open to the charge of not only the *suppressio veri*, but also of the *suggestio falsi*.

Admiral FARRAGUT needs no defenders. His whole life has been illustrated by acts of kindness, a marked amiability of character, and a faithful and conscientious discharge of every duty, social and official. And since the Government wisely selected him from the then long list of captains in the active list of the Navy, to restore the great Valley of the Mississippi to its rightful owners, and to freedom, he has won for himself and country an imperishable name for heroic deeds and unparalleled naval successes—a name that will adorn the annals of our country so long as there remains a history of this people.

Although I have said, as I truly believe, Admiral FARRAGUT needs no defenders, yet those who have won and shared his confidence, and humbly participated in some of his glorious victories, who know from long association with him, that he is incapable of intentionally doing injustice to any one, would be recreant to every trait of true manhood, if they stood silently by, and permitted him to be unjustly assailed from any quarter.

The history of the action in Mobile Bay, on the 5th day of August, 1864, has yet to be written. When the time comes for writing it, the historian need go little farther, if indeed any farther, than to state that on the morning of that memorable day, Admiral FARRAGUT saved from annihilation and utter destruction, the fleet under his command, by offering himself and the gallant men of his iron ship and those of his consort, as a noble sacrifice for the safety of the rest; and that having safely passed through and over the triple lines of torpedoes placed by the enemy for his destruction, when his retarded fleet had surrounded him, prepared to make every sacrifice for country, flag, and cause, he threw himself and ship, into the thickest of the unequal fight, where he remained until the emblem of rebellion was hauled down. The historian, if he bring to his aid all the facts, might be justified in closing this brief paragraph with the words of MARTIAL (although used with a different reference), for the benefit of those worthy participants, who it would seem had glorious visions of captains', comendores', and, mayhap, admirals' commissions:

"Sunt bona, sunt quaedam mediocre,
Sunt mala plura."

I regretted to see in the columns of your highly respectable and popular journal a communication calculated not

only to pain one of the noblest of God's noblemen, but to stir up strife in a service which should be composed only of brothers.

One word more before we part. These candidates (or their officious and indiscreet friends) for newspaper fame or notoriety had better beware lest they unwittingly arouse more than one slumbering lion. *VALSAT QUANTUM.*

WEST GULF SQUADRON, December, 1864.

A DEFENCE OF THE VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—In a news paragraph in one of your late numbers, in regard to cutting off certain commutations, the phrase "that favored corps," is used as referring to the Veteran Reserve Corps. Allow me to ask, why "favored?" In having little duty to perform, and that of an easy and agreeable character? It can be shown by indisputable evidence, that more duty is done by that part of the Corps stationed in the city of Washington, than was ever performed there by the same number of able-bodied men.

When officers and men are on guard, every alternate twenty-four hours, for months, they can hardly be said to enjoy a sinecure. Now this is precisely what was and is done by that "favored corps," in that city and elsewhere. As to the second point, is there any duty in the whole round of a soldier's avocations more universally considered irksome and onerous, than strict guard duty? If there is, I never heard of it.

Hard work and no credit for it, is the lot of the Veteran Reserve Corps. But all they ask is not to be maligned. Disabled by honorable wounds, and disease contracted in their country's service, they are "favored" by being allowed to perform as severe duty as they can possibly sustain, and to endure the sneers and sarcasms levelled at them by many who ought to be more just and considerate.

V. R. C.
JOHNSON'S ISLAND, O., Dec. 28, 1864.

THE ELMIRA BARRACKS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—The following is an extract from an article which I find in your journal of December 17, 1864:

"As a case in point, we are informed that the troops on duty at Elmira, New York, are, during this inclement weather, living in tents; that they are not furnished with straw; that they have only the regulation allowance of fuel, which is entirely inadequate to keep a fire in each tent; that even in that land of plenty they receive no vegetables, and that by some strange process of reasoning the War Department has decided that they do not need as much food as men in the field, and the ration has been reduced accordingly."

"We do not find fault with anybody for this—that is not our purpose. We state simply the facts, and use them as an illustration of the idea we have advanced that many soldiers desert because they feel that they are not receiving their just rights and dues."

Some of the troops on duty here are in tents; not, however because there is not barracks room enough, but that they may be located near the Prison Camp where they are on duty. These tents are of the very best quality, well floored, protected and warmed. Straw is issued when it can be obtained, and at other times an abundance of hay is furnished in lieu of straw. All the wood allowed by the Regulations, together with the extra issue allowed in a northern climate is regularly issued. When this is not sufficient, extra issues besides the extra amount allowed by the Regulations are made. It is not known this side of the city of New York, that there has been any suffering here for lack of wood. By General Order 216, current series, fresh vegetables, dried fruit, etc., may be issued in lieu of other articles; also vegetable cake and compressed potatoes are issued instead of rice, beans, and hominy, when desirable.

After diligent inquiry I have no hesitation in stating that there has been no case of desertion at Elmira on account of ill usage, or for the causes stated in your journal. When men have deserted, it has not been for the want of supplies, or care,—for the Government has been most merciful and watchful towards them,—but because they were the lowest and meanest class, assisted and encouraged by traitors at large.

E.
ELMIRA, NEW YORK, JANUARY 2, 1865.

MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

CONGRESS resumed business on Thursday, the 5th inst., after the adjournment for the holidays, the most important business relating to the military service thus far introduced being the introduction of the joint resolution in the House "that all vacancies in the clerical force in the War, Navy, Treasury, Interior and Post-office Departments, that may hereafter occur, shall be filled proportionally by soldiers and sailors disabled by wounds received in battle, who are competent to perform the duties, or who may be quickly instructed therein; and that the Secretaries and the heads of the said several departments, and the bureaus therein, be required to appoint soldiers and sailors disabled by wounds received in battle in place of the present incumbents in their said several departments and bureaus as rapidly as the change can be made without detriment to the public service."

The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee. A joint resolution of thanks to Major-General SHERMAN and the officers and men under him, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, was presented, and the Secretary of the Navy was called upon to furnish all the facts relative to the bursting of the guns on Rear-Admiral PORTER's fleet.

In the issue of this journal for December 3, 1864, was officially published the names of twenty-two officers of the Second Louisiana cavalry, dismissed from service for declining to be examined for consolidation with First Louisiana cavalry. This order, so far as it relates to First Lieutenant JAMES E. McBERTH, has, by Special Order Number 196, dated Headquarters Military Division West Mississippi, November 26, 1864, been revoked, and the officer has been honorably discharged from the service.

THE FEELING IN RICHMOND.

The authorship of the following article, appearing in the *Richmond Sentinel*, is charged by the *Richmond Enquirer* upon Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS. Whether or not it is to be credited to so well-informed a source, it is at least significant, as showing the impression our recent succession of victories has made upon the people of Richmond. No longer able to disguise from themselves that their hope of successful rebellion has passed, in their alarm, may be they are ready to grasp at any of those impossible expedients which present themselves to minds disordered by despair. As the *Examiner* pertinently says of the article in the *Sentinel*:—

"The blind panic of the writer makes him even unable to see that neither England, nor France, nor Spain, nor the three combined, would touch us with the end of the longest pole if we once made so helpless an exhibition of ourselves. Nations are not 'Good Samaritans.' If they see a weaker brother fallen among thieves, wounded and half dead, they do not trouble themselves about his hard fate. They do not even pass by on the other side, but empty his pockets, if peradventure there be somewhat left to take away from him."

If neither England nor France will so much as recognize us, not even know of our existence, while we are vigorously baffling and beating back gigantic invasions year after year, in haughty reliance on our own prowess and good cause, and able, also, to offer them advantageous alliances and reciprocal benefits, how would they receive such an invitation as this, now that we are sinking and perishing under the mighty power of the Yankee nation?"

The following is the article credited to the *Sentinel*:

It becomes us coolly and calmly to look into the circumstances of our condition, and adopt with firmness and energy such a policy as wisdom may point out and our necessity constrain. It is childish to whine under misfortune. It is cowardly to sink under it. It is absurd to be enfeebled by it. A brave man struggling with adversity is worthy of special admiration—a spectacle for gods and men.

We think that our late reverses have done much towards preparing the minds of our people for the most extreme sacrifices, if they shall be adjudged necessary to the success of our cause. And in truth they are not sacrifices at all when compared with our situation. If subjugated, it is a question simply whether we shall give for our own uses, or whether the Yankees shall take for theirs. Subjugation means emancipation and confiscation.

All our servants and all our property yielded up to assist in the defence of our country would mean no more, but it would be far more glorious to devote our means to our success than to lose them as spoils to the enemy. Our situation, too, stripped of our property, but master of the government, would be infinitely better than if despoiled by the enemy and wearing his bonds.

These views have long received the theoretical assent of our people. They are now our practical realizing conviction. A thousand prejudices, a thousand consecrated dogmas, are now ready to be yielded at the bidding of necessity. Any sacrifice of opinion and sacrifice of property, any surrender of prejudice, if necessary to the defeat of our enemy, is now the watchword and the reply. Subjugation is a horror that embraces all other horrors, and adds enormous calamities of its own. The people see this. They have a vivid perception of it. They are ready on their part for the duties which it implies. Now our authorities, State and Confederate, rise to the level of the great occasion.

Troublesome times are upon us. Great exigencies surround us. We need all our strength and all our wisdom. Let there be a conference of our wise men. Let there be a calm investigation of our wants and a catalogue of our resources. Then, by common consent, let all obstacles to the employment of these resources be removed. So long as we have a man or a dollar, and the man or dollar be needed, let the call be honored.

We must not raise difficulties; it is no time for that. Shall we withhold our sons and thus reserve them as servants for the Yankees? Shall we send our sons and deny our negroes? Shall we spend our blood and refuse our money? Shall we withhold anything from our country when we should be but saving it for our foe? It is a disgrace to a garrison to surrender before its ammunition is exhausted.

It would be adding disgrace to our misery, if we were overcome without having first exhausted every resource of defence. It would be doubly infamous to us, because, with contributions to our defence equal to the spoliations we should suffer if conquered, our success would be assured. We should come out of the contest at least with that which would be worth more than all the rest, our liberties and our country. If we had thrown overboard the cargo we should thereby have saved the ship.

Let the Government determine what it needs and what it can use, and if it be our lands, our houses, our negroes, our horses, our money, ourselves, it must have them. Strange that we should cling most tenaciously to what is of least moment! Strange that we should give ourselves and grudge our property! Our patriotism must lay aside such selfishness.

It must be generous as well as brave. Our authorities must do more. They must take care, whatever befall us, to save us from the Yankees. If adverse gales and devouring billows should constrain our storm-tossed ship into some port, let it be no Yankee port. If an unpropitious Providence should condemn us to a master, let it not be a Yankee master! Of all the people on earth we should have most reason to loathe and to dread them. Any terms with any other would be preferable to subjugation to them.

This is the sentiment of our people. This is their conviction, and it is a wise conviction. Let our rulers remember it and heed it. Our constitution was made as the development of our national life. It may not provide for all the various exigencies of war; questions of state may arise in our experience, as they have arisen in the experience of al-

most every other nation, when our best welfare will require of our rulers the exercise of a bold responsibility.

The acquisition of Louisiana in 1803 was justified only as a question of state, something over and above the constitution. If in times of peace statesmen have sometimes thus to throw themselves upon the intelligence of their countrymen and seek their advantage by irregular methods, such occasions may well be presumed more likely to arise during a struggle for life with a powerful, unscrupulous and ferocious enemy.

The clouds that have thickened over us admonish us of the possibility that the time may come when statesmanship, if it cannot deliver us, must at least secure to us the utmost palliation of our misery. If it cannot save, it must at least save us from the Yankees.

We lately published, from a thoughtful correspondent, a suggestion that, in the event of being unable to sustain our independence, we should surrender it into the hands of those from whom we wrested or purchased it, into the hands of Britain, France and Spain, rather than yield it to the Yankees.

From the favor with which this suggestion has been received, we are sure that in the dread event which it contemplates, our people would infinitely prefer an alliance with European nations, on terms as favorable as they could desire, in preference to the dominion of the Yankees. We will not dwell upon that subject now. We speak of them not out of gloomy forebodings, but simply as a man in health speaks of his will.

What we ask now, in the name of the people, is, that the government strain every energy and develop every resource for the public defence. Remember that to hold back anything is not to save it. The only question is, shall we have the use of it, or shall our enemies. Such a question leaves no room to hesitate. Upon such efforts and such devotion heaven will surely send its blessing. But if misfortune should still pursue us and our hopes all fail, let us have the election of throwing ourselves into the hands of those who are cold and indifferent rather than to fall under the yoke of malignant enemies raising the wolf's howl for our blood.

We could not have avoided the struggle into which the North has forced us. Long ago Lincoln declared that the republic could not exist half slave and half free. In various forms the people of the North pressed the issue upon us. Our enemies hedged us round and finally drove us to the wall. The worst that can happen to us in prosecuting our defence is the best that they designed for us in the beginning, and far better than they will accord us, if they triumph in their aims. Providence has marked out our path, and both led and urged our steps. It has been to us the inevitable path of duty.

If in pursuing it we fail, this were to fail as nations never failed before. Providence will not suffer us to go down if we show a proper devotion, a proper wisdom and a proper courage. Let our wise men plan, let our brave men fight, and let our good men pray, God will open up a way of escape for us and will disappoint our enemies. Let our faith fail not."

THE FALL OF FORT McALLISTER AND SAVANNAH.

(From the *Augusta Chronicle*, December 28.)

We have just had the pleasure of a chat with one of our friends who left Savannah Monday night. He states authentic information has been received in Charleston that Savannah was successfully evacuated Tuesday night.

When he left the city on Monday several hundred families were without anything to eat. Provisions were exceedingly scarce.

During the past week several assaults were made on our lines, but were repulsed signally. Our works around the city were very strong, and the place, in all probability, would have been held, had it not been for the fall of Fort McAllister.

The usual garrison of Fort McAllister numbered about one hundred and twenty-five men. A day or two before it fell, however, about six hundred more troops were sent to their aid. By its fall we lost between seven and eight hundred men. The fort was attacked on the north side by SHERMAN's forces. No particulars of the fight have as yet been received. It is known, however, that no attack was made on the south or water side. It is also known if the fort had been as strong on the land side as it was on the water side it never could have been captured. After SHERMAN captured the fort he communicated with the fleet, and procured a bountiful supply of ammunition—an article which he was deprived of by Providence in Atlanta. SHERMAN also transferred the heavy guns from Fort McAllister to a position from which he could shell the city in case he wished to.

No demand was made for the surrender of the city until Saturday. On that day he demanded the unconditional surrender of the city. General BRAUERGARD in substance informed him that "he knew the way to the city and could take it if he was able." General BRAUERGARD left the city on Sunday.

The residents of Savannah did not expect that the city would be captured. They were totally unprepared for such a result. But very few of them succeeded in getting away. Those who did were obliged to leave most of their effects behind. The best order was maintained throughout the siege. All the whisky was locked up. The stills were all seized by the authorities. The four local companies were assigned to police duty, and kept law-breakers quiet. One or two small fires occurred, but little property, however, was damaged. All the rice on the plantations in the vicinity of the city fell into the hands of the Yankees. Some estimate the amount at five hundred thousand bushels.

The Confederate government succeeded in removing most of its stores. The main loss sustained by it was the loss of the siege guns about the place and the gunboats. One report is that all the gunboats were blown up to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. Some believe, however, that the *Java* succeeded in making her way up the river.

The pontoon bridge across which our troops passed was built at the foot of one of the streets of the city. Dur-

ing the siege several attempts to destroy our communications on the Carolina side were made, all of which proved futile.

Bishop ELLIOT was in the city on Monday. Our informant does not know whether he left the place or not. There were two small steamboats at Savannah when the siege commenced. It is reported that the Yankees captured the *Frigate*, and that the *Macos* was scuttled. A large portion of the Central Railroad cars were sent down the Savannah and Gulf Railroad before that line was interrupted.

Both the printing offices in the city fell into the hands of the Yankees. Both the editors left before the capitulation.

A CINCINNATI paper describes a beautiful monument about to be erected to the memory of Major-General Sherman's son who died over a year since, in Memphis, while returning home with his mother from the Black river, where they had been visiting the General, and where, unfortunately, the boy contracted a fever. The monument was made by order of the 13th Regiment United States Infantry, of which General Sherman was Colonel four years since, and of which his namesake-son, the deceased child, was, by general consent, considered a Sergeant, having been elected to that position by the members of the regiment, who were very proud of him. The monument is about two feet square at the base and six feet high. Above the rough ground base, is the marble base, an eight-sided, finely-polished and ornamented block. Upon four of the faces are inscriptions, and upon the other four, between them, the American shield, with its stripes and stars. Surmounting the base is a full sized tenor drum, with straps and sticks complete, and crossed, above this, two flags of the Union—all in beautiful white marble. The inscriptions are as follows:

In Thy tabernacles I shall dwell forever. I shall be protected under the cover of Thy wing.—Psalms 1, 1.

Our little Sergeant Willie—from the First Battalion, 13th United States Infantry.

William Tecumseh Sherman, son of William T. and Ellen E. Sherman. Born in San Francisco, California, June 8, 1854; died in Memphis, Tennessee, October 3, 1863.

"In his spirit there was no guile."

Blessed are they undefiled in the way, who walk in the way of the Lord.—Psalms cxviii.

THE Arago, on her last trip North, encountered, Dec. 24th, off Egg Harbor, the bark Mary E. Libby, of Portland, and took from her Captain Marhsan, of the steamer North America, foundered at sea, and forty-seven of her officers, passengers and crew. It seems that the North America left New Orleans on the 16th of December, and Southwest Pass on the 18th, having been detained by a fog. She had on board two hundred and three sick soldiers, twelve cabin passengers, and a crew of forty-four men. The weather was pleasant up to the afternoon of the 20th, when a heavy S. S. W. wind commenced blowing. The ship began to leak badly and efforts to stop the leak were of no avail. The Mary E. Libby was spoken on the 22d and it was succeeded in getting six boat loads of passengers off the sinking vessel. The seventh boat load was probably lost. In all 62 passengers were saved and 197 lost with the ship. Among the saved were Captain J. W. Migrath, United States colored infantry; G. M. Wilson, hospital steward, United States Army; W. P. Dismore, United States Navy; E. McClintock, United States Navy. Among those known to be lost were: Purser Charles Pettit; B. D. Walker, hospital steward, United States Army; Lieutenant-Colonel Horn, Sixty-fifth United States colored infantry; Quartermaster same regiment (name unknown); Lieutenant Matthews, Eighteenth New York cavalry.

FROM Savannah papers we gather interesting personal items in regard to the movements of officers:

Brigadier-General John W. Geary, commandant of the post, has his office in the Railroad Bank building, and is gradually getting an acceptable system of military government in operation. Brigadier-General Easton, Chief Quartermaster, has his quarters in a fine house on the corner of West Broad and South Broad streets. He has charge of every building and all quartermaster's property in the city, but the assignment of buildings is in charge of Captain Cadwallader, A. Q. M. General Howard is at the house of Mr. Molyneux, late British Consul here, and General Slocum is at the residence of Hon. John E. Ward. Other officers are quartered throughout the city. Captain John L. Kelly, A. Q. M., so long in charge of marine transportation at Hilton Head, has been appointed to the same position in Savannah, and has his office in Alderman Soullard's cotton commission store. Captain Silas Spicer, also from Hilton Head, is Harbor Master. Major-General Sherman has his quarters in the house of Mr. Charles Green. He is daily visited by hundreds of people, but refers his business, except in important cases, to subordinate officers. He is in good health, and is adored by his army, who believe they can do anything under his lead.

COLONEL LEWIS M. PECK, One Hundred and Seventy-third New York Volunteers, has been restored to the service from which he was some time since summarily dismissed, for alleged misconduct in the Red river campaign. A court-martial was ordered a few weeks since, of which Brigadier-General James D. Fessenden, who was in the campaign, was president. The court has acquitted Colonel Peck and ordered his return to his regiment, and the findings of the court are approved by Major-General Emory.

JOHN N. BATES, Treasurer of the National Sailors' Fair, acknowledges the receipt of \$7,440, subscriptions of New York merchants toward a fund for a National Sailors' Home, transferred to him by Captain John L. Worden.

LIEUT.-COL. NICODEMUS, Acting Chief of the Signal Corps, has been dismissed the service for publishing his report in advance of the publication of the Secretary of War's report.

ARMY AND NAVY PERSONAL.

SURGEON W. J. SLOAN, U. S. A., has been assigned to duty as Medical Director of the Department of the East.

CAPTAIN C. M. Morrett has been temporarily assigned to duty as Quartermaster of the First brigade of the Veteran Reserve corps.

The commission of Vice-Admiral Farragut was forwarded last week in time to reach the Admiral on Sunday, as a New-Year's present.

SURGEON P. G. S. Ten Broeck has been ordered to the district of Oregon for assignment to duty as Chief Medical Officer of that district.

MAJOR-General Camby has so far recovered from the wound under which he has been suffering, that he now attends personally to the duties of his position.

The Army will be pleased to hear that Brigadier-General Asboth has nearly recovered from the wound he received during the late Florida expedition, and that he expects soon again to take the field.

BRIGADIER-General Barry, who has been for several weeks in Buffalo for the recruitment of his health, has so far recovered as to be able to leave New York to rejoin Sherman at Savannah.

SURGEON A. K. Smith, U. S. A., has been relieved from duty in charge of the U. S. Laboratory, Philadelphia, and ordered to report in person, without delay, to Major-General Sherman at Savannah.

The resignations of the following officers have been accepted by the President:—Assistant-Surgeon E. C. Strade, U. S. A., to date December 24; Assistant-Surgeon B. Howard, U. S. A., to date Dec. 28.

ASSISTANT-Surgeon C. H. Alden, U. S. A., has been relieved from duty with the Medical Director at Philadelphia, and is ordered to report for duty to Brevet Colonel C. McDongall, Medical Purveyor, Philadelphia.

SURGEON C. McCormick, U. S. A., has been relieved from duty as Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and assigned to the position of Medical Director of the Pacific Department.

H. SYDNEY Everett, Esq., of Boston, has been appointed and commissioned Assistant-Adjutant-General, with the rank of Major, and detailed for duty in the Department of the South, under Brigadier-General Saxton.

LIEUTENANT Ludlow, of the Fifth regular artillery, who has been on detached service in the Army of the James since May last, has been ordered to join his battery in the Shenandoah. Lieutenant Ludlow is a brother of General W. C. Ludlow.

ASSISTANT-Surgeon J. H. Kinsman, U. S. A., has been relieved from duty in the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and ordered to report in person to the Commanding General, Department of the Pacific, for assignment to duty.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK LEWIS MANNING, of Major-General Butler's staff, has been promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, Colonel Murray commanding, in place of Colonel Guion, recently resigned.

CAPTAIN A. Edwards, A. Q. M., having been assigned by the Quartermaster-General to other duties, has been relieved from duty as Military Harbor Master, Port of St. Louis, Mo. Captain Thomas B. Hunt, A. Q. M., has been appointed Military Harbor Master.

MAJOR-General Butler, accompanied by his staff, returned to his headquarters in the Army of the James on the evening of the 28th, from North Carolina, and at once resumed command in place of Major-General Ord, who returns to the head of the Twenty-fourth corps.

COLONEL James C. Biddle, of the staff of Major-General Meade, now on leave, has assumed the duties of chief of the transportation and telegraph department of Pennsylvania, and of military secretary to Governor Curtin, to which position he has been appointed by the governor.

MAJOR Robert Monroe, of the One Hundred and Thirtyninth Pennsylvania volunteers, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted, and he has been honorably discharged from the service. Major Monroe is incapacitated for service in the field by reason of wounds received in action.

COLONEL J. H. Baker, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, is announced as Provost-Marshall-General, Department of the Missouri. He will enter upon his duties immediately. Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Davis, Fifty-first Illinois Infantry, is announced as Assistant-Provost-Marshall-General, and Inspector of Provost-Marshall's Department.

CAPTAIN P. A. Davis, Assistant Adjutant-General to General R. S. Foster, who was severely wounded in the action of the 27th of October, on the Darbytown road, after escaping injury from the enemy in many other battles, has returned to the field for duty upon his crutches. Captain Davis will have a position on the corps staff of Major-General Ord.

BREVET Colonel C. McDongall, Surgeon U. S. A., has been relieved from duty as Medical Director, Department of the East, and ordered to Philadelphia to relieve Surgeon Robert Murray, U. S. A., as Medical Purveyor in that city. Surgeon Murray has been ordered to San Francisco, California, to relieve P. G. S. Ten Broeck, U. S. A., as Medical Purveyor in that city.

THE Savannah *Loyal Georgian* of December 24th, says: General Sherman has his headquarters at the house of Mr. Charles Green. General Howard's headquarters are at the house of Mr. Molynaux, late British Consul at Savannah, who is now in Europe. General Slocum's headquarters are at the late residence of Honorable John E. Ward. General Geary, commandant of the post, has his office in the Bank building, next door to the Custom House.

The following-named officers arrived at Nashville on the 2d inst., having escaped from Columbia, S. C.: Captain H. H. Walpole and Captain J. M. Gore, One Hundred and Twenty-second New York; Lieutenant Carty, One Hundred and Fifty-first New York; Captain A. M. Bronson,

First Lieutenant Columbia Cavalry; Lieutenant H. Carroll and Captain W. E. Fadden, Fifty-seventh New York; Lieutenant W. L. Bates, One Hundred and Thirty-second New York; and Lieutenant J. Johnson, Ninth Kentucky.

The following named officers in the Department of the Gulf have been promoted to be Brigadier-Generals:—Colonel Cyrus Hamlin, 80th regiment (colored); Colonel Davis, of the Texas cavalry; Colonel Bailey, commanding the Second brigade of the Second Division of cavalry; and Colonel Lucas, of Indiana volunteers. Captain Sturgeon, chief mustering officer of the department, has been appointed to the colonelcy of the First New Orleans volunteers, a regiment which has recently completed its organization.

THE Richmond *Examiner* of December 28th, reports the late arrival of the following commissioned officers, captured at various points, at the Libby Prison:—Colonel J. S. Hanson; Thirty-seventh Kentucky Mounted Rifles; Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Hutchins, New York Cavalry; Captain C. N. Degenfeld, Twelfth Ohio Cavalry; Captain J. N. Wallace, Third Delaware Regiment; First Lieutenant T. H. Trippeling, Second New York Mounted Rifles; First Lieutenant James Evans, Ninety-seventh New York; L. A. Cowick, Surgeon-in-chief of the Fourth cavalry division, Sheridan's Army of the Valley.

On the 24th of December, a band of Rebel guerrillas in Florida, succeeded in capturing Colonel Noble, of the Seventeenth Connecticut, Lieutenant Rice, Assistant-Provost-Marshall of the District of Florida, and Captain Young, formerly of Brigadier-General Birney's staff, but now discharged the service, while they were on the way from Jacksonville to St. Augustine. Captain Young was released on account of indisposition, which disabled him from marching at the rapid pace the guerrillas considered necessary. Others were retained, and are still in the enemy's hands.

The following is a list of the Officers who recently arrived at Fort Monroe in the steamer *Arago*, from Port Royal, having made their escape from the Rebel prisons in Columbia, S. C. by bribing the guard of old men and boys placed over them: Major A. W. McDonald, 106 N. Y.; Adjutant E. P. Brooks, 6 Wisconsin; Adjutant P. W. McManus, 27 Massachusetts; Adjutant G. H. Gamble, 3 Illinois; Adjutant H. G. Kendall, 50 Pennsylvania; Adjutant G. Kings, 100 Ohio; Captain W. J. Barnes, 23 New York; Captain A. J. Bliss, 10 New York cavalry; Captain L. D. Tyler, 106 Pennsylvania; Captain H. B. Andrews, 17 Michigan; Captain Coats, 35 New York; Captain Singer, 30 Ohio; Captain Reynolds, 75 Ohio; Captain Spencer, 82 Indiana; Captain Clark, 7 Michigan cavalry; Lieutenant J. L. Skinner, 27 Massachusetts; Lieutenant W. G. Davis, 27 Massachusetts; Lieutenant J. V. Patterson, 21 Ohio Volunteers; Lieutenant J. N. Uptigrave, 72 Indiana; Lieutenant E. R. Roberts, — Illinois; Lieutenant E. Schurz, 7 New York Heavy Artillery; Lieutenant J. N. Davidson, 95 Ohio Volunteers; Lieutenant A. Allen, 16 Illinois Cavalry; Lieutenant H. R. Hubbard, 119 Illinois Volunteers; Lieutenant J. C. Price, 75 Ohio; Captain J. L. Unthank, 11 Kentucky; Captain G. Brady, 2 New York Volunteers; Captain W. A. Collins, — Wisconsin; Captain V. J. Ray, 49 Ohio; Captain W. B. Micker, 25 Ohio; Captain M. Russell, 51 Indiana; Captain J. H. Nubling, 27 Massachusetts; Captain H. Jenkins, 40 Massachusetts; Lieutenant M. C. Foote, A. D. C. General Wessel's staff; Lieutenant J. S. Thompson, 10 Vermont; Lieutenant D. P. Chubbard, 19 Massachusetts; O. G. Doughton, 100 Ohio; J. Crops, 77 Pennsylvania; T. J. Crosby, 57 Pennsylvania; Lieutenant J. B. Smith, 5 Virginia Cavalry; Lieutenant A. N. Thomas, 75 Indiana; Lieutenant J. H. Cane, 104 New York; Lieutenant J. L. Brown, 73 Indiana; Lieutenant G. R. Barres, 5 Michigan Cavalry; Lieutenant M. T. Williams, — Kentucky Cavalry; Lieutenant F. Moore, 73 Pennsylvania; Lieutenant F. A. Larkin, 19 Indiana.

PETROLEUM AS STEAM FUEL.—A Mr. Benjamin H. Paul, in a communication to the London *Times*, dated December 12, says:

The account given in the *Times* of this morning of experiments being made at Woolwich Dockyard in relation to the use of petroleum as steam fuel for ships, shows that the erroneous opinions formed as to the practicability of substituting petroleum for coal as fuel in steam vessels have not been abandoned.

A very slender consideration of the character, composition, and cost of petroleum would be sufficient to show the impracticability of using it as a fuel in such a case.

The heating power of petroleum is certainly higher than that of coal, equal 15:1. But the price of petroleum varies from £15 to £20 per ton. Its bulk in relation to coal is as 1:1.16, for quantities of equal heating power.

Now, sir, these facts will, I believe, be sufficient to convince any one of the impracticability of using petroleum as a substitute for coal in steam vessels, quite independently of any contrivance as to the mode of burning.

I have no knowledge of the plan referred to in the notice which appears in the *Times* of this morning, but the statement it contains that "the oil was utilized so as to be equal for steam purposes to five tons of coals" is so startling, and is so calculated to create an erroneous impression, when given under the sanction of the *Times*, that I take the liberty of submitting to you the facts above stated for your own consideration; and, as the subject has now acquired public importance from its being under the notice of the Government authorities, I beg to request that you will insert this letter in your columns if you should consider it worth notice.

THE Richmond *Enquirer* announces the death in that city, on the 1st inst., of Colonel Angus W. McDonald, whom the older West Point graduates will remember as a graduate of the class of 1817. His father was major in the United States Army, and died during the War of 1812, at Buffalo, N. Y. Colonel McDonald was captured near Lexington, Va., last summer, by General Hunter, and was exchanged last November, reaching Richmond November 14. Colonel McDonald was promoted on his graduation at West Point to third lieutenant in the artillery corps. February 13, 1818, he was promoted second lieutenant of the Seventh infantry, and April 1, 1818, to first lieutenant in the same

regiment. He resigned January 31, 1819, and commenced the practice of law at Romney, Va. He has been a brigadier-general of Virginia militia for many years. His age was sixty-two.

By the order of Major General Dana, commanding the Department of the Mississippi, all kinds and descriptions of arms and ammunition, military pyrotechnics and the materials used in their manufacture (saving and excepting a single weapon in possession of any citizen who has received the proper military permit to carry it), now remaining in any private hands within the limits of the department of the Mississippi, will be forthwith transported north of Cairo, and no private property of that description will hereafter be brought south of that port. All such property found south of Cairo, on and after the first day of January next, except such lot as may be in transitu north, will be seized and confiscated by any Provost-Marshall or commanding officer, and the owner or agent in charge imprisoned until the report is made to headquarters, and the orders in the case are known.

A NEW NAVAL FLAG.—The Swiss flag will shortly be seen at sea. At first sight this fact may appear strange, as Switzerland has no ports, and as yet possesses no colonies. The following decree of the Federal Assembly will, however, furnish an explanation of the matter:—"Considering the petitions of a large number of Swiss citizens domiciled at Trieste, Smyrna, and St. Petersburg, and the message of the Federal Council of the 25th of November, 1864, the Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation decrees:—1. The Federal Council is authorized to permit the use at sea of the Swiss flag for Swiss vessels; 2. Until an ultimate decision of the Federal Assembly, the Federal Council hereby receives full power to adopt necessary measures for the execution of the present decree." This is the first instance of such a proceeding.

On Saturday morning last, Vice-Admiral Farragut was presented with the sum of fifty thousand dollars, recently collected by a committee of New York citizens. The presentation took place in the Custom-House, in the presence of a large number of our most prominent citizens. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Moses Taylor, who, on behalf of the Committee, read the presentation address. Admiral Farragut replied in a few felicitous remarks.

OBITUARY.

MAJOR JOSEPH W. PAINE.

The knights are dust,
And their good swords are rust,
Their souls are with the saints, we trust.

—COLEBRIDGE.

ANOTHER has been added to the mighty martyrdom of the Rebellion—another costly gift presented to the American Union—another noble name appended to the long list of those who have fallen in this holy war and modern crusade against rebellion. JOSEPH WARREN PAINE, who died suddenly in New Orleans, La., November 25, 1864, was born in Boston, March, 1832. He was a son of ELIAS W. PAINE, an old merchant of that city. For several years he was associate editor and publisher with WILLIAM MATTHEWS (now Professor of Belles Lettres in the University of Chicago) of the *Fantee Blade*, a journal overflowing with the "best things" to be found in the columns of the newspaper press of that day. More recently PAINE was connected with several of the leading life insurance companies of New York, but continued to contribute fugitive pieces—some of great beauty and deep feeling, others abounding in humor—to some of the principal Boston and New York journals. He entered the service in the summer of 1863, as First Lieutenant Thirteenth New York Cavalry, and served with ability and success in Virginia, gaining great credit for the persistence with which he hunted Mosby, the guerrilla. He on one occasion chased him for one hundred hours. Early in 1864 he received, through the Colonel of the regiment, a commission as Major of the Fourth U. S. Colored Cavalry, and at once proceeded to the Department of the Gulf to join his new command. He probably recruited more men for the *Corps d'Afrique* than any other officer in it. During the Red River campaign he was indefatigable. His plan of recruiting was peculiar. Taking a squad of colored cavalry, he would go outside of the lines, capture all the horses and mules he could lay hands on, and mounting thereon all the recruits he could get, marched back to camp. It was amusing to see him march his "Ebony Brigade" past the "starchy regiments" from Northern States. "Hailos, what have you got there?" would be the salutation. "Horace GREENLEY's body guard," he would laughingly reply, and march on. And what is more, he would not bring the husband and father and leave the family to suffer. If he promised a negro to bring his family to New Orleans, the family came, general and special orders to the contrary notwithstanding. His perseverance was wonderful. It was no use to say "no." On one pretext or another he would go back until he obtained his desire. On the Red River campaign, he was refused an order which he thought necessary for the good of the corps and his recruits, at least six times, but not discouraged he applied again, and obtained his wishes. The writer of this has seen him "amidst the clangor of resounding arms," and no man could display more dauntless courage. In August it was evident that he had overworked himself, but instead of doing so by taking rest, he entered the political campaign, supporting the administration, with pen and voice. The second week of November he returned to New Orleans, before his health was sufficiently restored, and within a week of his arrival there was a corpse. His remains were embalmed and sent to Massachusetts for interment. Such is the story of the short career of a man by nature a philanthropist, on principle an abolitionist—a man who had no enemies but those opposed to the good cause which he supported. Everybody loved him for his warmth-heartedness, his sincerity, and his fidelity to principle. His social traits were of the kindest description. Full of song and story, of wit and humor, he was the delight of every circle in which he moved. No officer in his regiment was so popular, and they in common with his troops of friends deplore his early death—as much "dead on the field" as if he had been struck down by a Rebel bullet. A grateful country will honor his memory, for

"Who dies in vain
Upon his country's war fields, and within
The shadow of her altars!"

J. G. W.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of this JOURNAL will always be glad to receive from officers in the two services, correspondence and general communications of a character suited to its columns. It is necessary that the name of the writer should, in all cases accompany his communications, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Officers are especially requested to give us early notification of all personal matters of general interest; of the movements of vessels of casualties among officers; and military and naval events.

The Editor will, at all times, be pleased to respond, in these columns, to inquiries in regard to tactical and other matters.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in United States funds, or Quartermaster's, Paymaster's or other drafts, which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietor, W. C. Church.

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U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1865.

THE EXPEDITION TO WILMINGTON.

FEW grand expeditions in our war have been at once so tardy in their inception and yet so brisk in their execution—or rather in their non-execution—as the late one from Fort Monroe to Wilmington. For several months the fleet lay collecting and fitting, in Hampton Roads, waiting for the Army to get ready. As if it had not waited long enough, contrary winds postponed the appointed day of sailing, and more furious gales were near making shipwreck of the whole affair before Cape Fear was reached. But, hardly had news come North that the fleet had opened on Fort Fisher, before the attack was over, the troops reembarked, and Admiral PORTER's dispatches told why the failure had happened.

Precisely why the failure has happened, however, is, unhappily, a question of no easy solution. It is clear, nevertheless, that the question is not whether it was the Army or Navy that neglected to do its work; but simply whether or not the Army was at fault. For the fleet was as vigorous as possible; and the only criticism launched against its share of the operations is that they were hasty and premature: or, to use the phrase of a contemporary, that the bombardment was already "stale" when the troops were landed. But this censure, even if merited, does not controvert the fact that the Navy silenced the fort at the precise time when the assault was made, which was all that it was required to do. The question still continues to be, did the land forces do then and there all that was possible for them to do? If not, then we have reached at once the point for criticism; if they did, the record of the Army on the spot stands every whit as clear and brilliant as the Navy's, and we must go back to the conception and preparation of the expedition to seek the cause of its failure.

At its very inception, there were some bad omens, or, at all events, some unpleasant tokens of carelessness or indifference. There was a great delay at Fort Monroe in getting the Army off, while the Navy fretted to be away. The same appearance of contrast—of tardiness in the troops and eagerness in the fleet—continued to show itself. The Navy opened fire, and exploded its powder-boat, before the transports had arrived; and when, at last, the latter crept up, they seemed a long time in discharging their troops. The flagship *Malvern* is said to have hailed the flagship *Ben Deford* to know why the forces were not landed more rapidly, and the answer came that they were landed as fast as possible. The Navy, at all events, must have been satisfied with the briskness with which the troops were afterwards reembarked.

In a word, there was not entire co-operation, perhaps, between the two attacking forces. It was another instance of a difference of opinion between soldier and sailor, examples of which are as old as military history. English annals are fuller of them than our own; and nothing is more gratifying than the manner in which, during our war, soldiers and sailors have united in generous emulation, under the happy influence of a common patriotic ardor. The want of co-operation is the exception with us, not the rule—as

Vicksburg, for example, or Mobile, or Fort Donelson, or the BURNSIDE expedition, will testify. When an exception occurs, as in the unfortunate Red River affair, or in the present one, we shall see that each service expects too much of the other. The Navy is not satisfied unless the Army swims all the water in its path; and the Army expects the gunboats to wade ashore like so many huge turtles. We cannot always, therefore, look to either service for a correct judgment on the performances of the other.

One chief requisite in all cases where want of co-operation may arise, is to have a single and competent leader for the whole enterprise. Somebody must be in command. Our officers in Charleston harbor, Admirals DUPONT and DAHLGREN, Generals HUNTER and GILLMORE, could give us valuable information on this point. Admiral PORTER himself must be well qualified to speak upon it, after his admirable harmony with GRANT at Vicksburg, and his less agreeable relations with BANKS at Alexandria and BUTLER at Wilmington. It would be easy to elaborate the argument, but its statement will be sufficient.

With so much comment on the antecedents of the expedition, let us pass to what occurred after the fleet opened fire. Admiral PORTER and all the Navy undoubtedly believe that the troops, however tardily landed, could have gone over the fort. General BUTLER, as leader of the land forces, believes they could not; and that any experiment of that sort would be a useless slaughter of his men. Admiral PORTER says, tersely enough:—"I don't pretend to put my opinion in opposition to General WEITZEL, who is a thorough soldier and an able engineer, and whose business it is to know more of assaulting than I do. But I can't help thinking that it was worth while to make the attempt after coming so far."

And again he says to General BUTLER:—"I wish some more of your gallant fellows had followed the officer who took the flag from the parapet, and the brave fellow who brought the horse out from the fort. I think they would have found it an easier conquest than is supposed. I do not, however, pretend to place my opinion in opposition to General WEITZEL, whom I know to be an accomplished soldier and engineer, and whose opinion has great weight with me." From these pithy words of the Admiral it is evident what his own opinion is. But these same words recognize an important canon of criticism—the necessity of trusting to the opinion of a soldier in matters military. It would not, in general, be less extravagant for us to follow WEITZEL rather than PORTER as to the amount of injury the fleet could do the fort, than to follow PORTER rather than WEITZEL with regard to what the land forces could do. To take each man's opinion on the art he is versed in, is the ancient, as well as the modern, rule. And even without that professional pride of which we have already spoken, the simple fact of the difference of experience must induce us, in this case, provided other things are equal, to accept the judgment of a good soldier rather than that of a good sailor.

There is one point, however, which should be considered. General BUTLER seems to base his action implicitly upon the opinion of General WEITZEL. It appears that General BUTLER did not himself land to reconnoitre, and to satisfy himself by close, personal inspection with regard to the possibilities of manoeuvre and assault. Perhaps, if he had landed, he would have seen reason for risking an assault. There are advantages and disadvantages in adopting the opinion of a subordinate on the simple ground of his excellence as a soldier. A subordinate sometimes cannot fail to recognize the fact that he may receive the chief obloquy in case of failure, but not the chief glory in case of success. Such has sometimes been the case in military history, subordinates naturally, where there is doubt, inclining to the side of prudence. Especially is this the case, often, with engineer officers, whose opinion rests upon the single point, Is the place well or ill defended? WEITZEL, an engineer, probably reported, like an engineer, that the works were thoroughly defensible and defended.

Now, very often, while it is the duty of an engineer to report that a place has been fortified with a view to compelling a siege, it is the function and privilege of a commander, nevertheless, to decide to carry it by assault. And hence arises that paradox in military affairs, by which, when the engineer declares a fort can be defended, the general-in-chief replies

that it can and shall be taken. Had General McCLELLAN decided, in that way, to carry the works at Yorktown by assault, he would probably have succeeded. And it is one of the great advantages of supreme command that it can use the knowledge and judgment of a subordinate at pleasure, instead of being bound by them. General BUTLER in the present case decided that WEITZEL was right. And, after putting an officer in so high a position as General BUTLER's, it would be very singular to quarrel with him for following or rejecting the advice of his subordinates. Either he should not have been sent to Wilmington on account of being incapable of judging upon the exigencies that might arise, or else, having gone, his opinion as to the result of assaulting Fort Fisher should be received with due credit, and especially by persons far removed from the scene of hostilities. It may be added that the Lieutenant-General, who, as the highest officer of the Army, undoubtedly takes general direction of all movements on the Atlantic coast, at least, or, at all events, would take general supervision of a movement so near him as the Wilmington one, and so directly affecting the relations of his own Army, probably gave specific orders to General BUTLER. Until we know what those orders were, it would be the most flagrant injustice to presume they were not carried out. And yet, if they were carried out, General BUTLER and his troops are clear.

General BUTLER's exact words are these: "Admiral:—Upon landing the troops and making a thorough reconnaissance of Fort Fisher, both General WEITZEL and myself are fully of the opinion that the place could not be carried by assault, as it was left substantially uninjured as a defensive work by the Navy's fire." Now, it is worthy of remark that the report of the enemy's officers entirely confirms so much of the opinion of Generals BUTLER and WEITZEL as states the fort to be substantially uninjured by the Navy fire. It is true the enemy's story must be taken with proper allowance. It is also true that, as has been explained, we must consider the peculiar positions of our own commanders, in accepting their opinion. But, upon the whole, it seems very singular, with the few facts in our possession, for persons several hundreds of miles distant to decide that so vigorous a commander as General BUTLER and so accomplished and skillful a subordinate as General WEITZEL, must have been wrong in their judgment. It is, undoubtedly, a small performance to go so far for nothing at all, not even injuring the fort attacked. But it would have been a worse performance to have sacrificed the handful of troops which BUTLER carried down, according to that uncommendable practice finding out by costly experiment what brains and genius should teach by a glance. And this, too, is independent of the probability that General BUTLER strictly followed his orders. The military part of the expedition started from General GRANT's headquarters at City Point, and the troops and their commanders were all selected from the Armies under his direct control.

Probably, the truth of the matter is that no elaborate assault on Fort Fisher was ever intended. To the Navy, it was the great event of the year on the Atlantic coast, but not so to the Army; and hence, the two could not understand each other. The Navy, as Secretary WELLES says, has been ready for two years to take Wilmington, and only waited for the Army. But the Army in Virginia, during these two years, has had several weightier things to do, according to its notions, than the taking of Wilmington—among them, for example, the taking of Richmond. The Navy continued to say, however, again and again, that it would shell the enemy into silence at Fort Fisher, if the Army would only go in afterwards and occupy it. And it was just about as much as this that our troops went down to do. Six or eight thousand men only left the great Army investing Richmond and Petersburg. Even these were more than once promised before they started, and got away after long waiting, and only in a time of perfect inaction. PORTER had an elaborate and skillful order of battle for his ships, and all things were in high preparation, with great expectation throughout the fleet. The Army seems to have had no specific plan of action—no picked troops, or forlorn hope even. It had hardly as many troops as we often send against an earthwork thrown up in a single night; and the only thing sure is that it had troops enough to "occupy" Fort Fisher in case no formal and desperate

assault were required. There was no provision for a siege, in case accident should favor one, and no provision for reinforcements. General BUTLER expressly says that siege operations did not come within his instructions.

In the present stage of the Rebellion, it was probably thought desirable to keep our works around Richmond well manned; and past experience had taught us that we had no troops to expend against Fort Fisher, unless there was some chance that the place could be taken. When a lull had arrived in the Richmond campaign, General BUTLER, it may be conjectured, was authorized to take such troops as could well be spared, to go down and support the Navy in its projected bombardment of Fort Fisher. None of the troops were detailed from the southside, our main line of advance against Petersburg; but they were taken from the northside, where the feints occur.

Several things seem to have been made pre-requisites to the expedition—first, that only our lines on the James should be left perfectly strong; next, that no time or men should be wasted in a siege, or, perhaps, in an assault where the chances were doubtful; thirdly, that the affair should be as rapid as possible. Now, none of these pre-requisites could be appreciated by the Navy, with whom the capture of Wilmington was the first, last, and only thing to do—one of those extremely few things, all to be counted on the fingers of one hand, which remain possible to the Navy.

With a speed quite unceremonious, the Army landed on the beach, made a sort of swift New Year's call on the fort, and hurried away again to Fort Monroe, leaving the astonished sailors in great amazement to pound away a little longer at the enemy's works, until they could collect their senses sufficiently to follow in the wake of their allies. However, affairs at Wilmington are not finished yet. We believe that the city and all its forts will be ours upon another Christmas. And we hope that, in the attack from the successful quarter, Admiral PORTER and his fleet may have the pleasure of coöperating.

THE DUTCH GAP CANAL.

If the Dutch Gap Canal has accomplished nothing else hitherto, it originated a pleasant joke, which has already been the rounds. It is narrated that a court-martial at Bermuda Hundreds, lately passing judgment on some convicted soldiers, sentenced them all to "two years' hard labor on the Dutch Gap" ("Canal!") and it is added that the court found itself speedily dissolved after the perpetration of its bit of humor. Besides provoking this sharp witticism, the canal has furnished the staple of many sage commentaries to the Richmond editors, whose minds have been far more deeply exercised on that subject than have ours at the North. In addition, the canal has kept employed many contrabands and colored soldiers, has induced an elaborate disposition of the enemy's troops and artillery in that region, and a large expenditure of ammunition on both sides. But here, for the present, its list of benefits ends, and all others possible are benefits prospective. A slight suspicion begins to creep over us that the jocular court-martial was in earnest, or, at all events, that its sentence was only, as the phrase goes, "too much in advance of the times." On New Year's Day, the bulkhead of the canal was partially blown out by the explosion of mines. The earth rose to a considerable height, but obstinately fell back into the canal, instead of forward into the direction desired. Of course, communication was blocked up as firmly as before, and the canal rendered useless. Dredging will continue to be the order of the day, should the work be prosecuted. Possibly, it may yet be completed, for there is nothing absolutely disastrous in the failure of the explosion. But should it be otherwise, no one will be greatly disappointed. It is true that, on the reception in Wall street of the news of Sunday's explosion, gold soared as majestically, a few points, as the disturbed earth in the bulkhead. But, like the earth, it as speedily resumed its former basis. And, in view of the Vicksburg experience, most of our people will hardly expect to reduce the enemy's capital by a dike.

On the transfer of the Richmond campaign from the overland route to the river route, it was considered of prime importance to make our base at City Point secure. The enemy had two or three iron-clads and some other gunboats in James River; and it was

feared that they might come down, drive off our fleet, which was, however, pretty large, and shell our works at the Point. Admiral LEE thought it advisable to obstruct all possible navigation by sinking vessels across the narrow bend of the river at Trent's Reach, south of Farrar's Island and above Bermuda Hundred. It is sometimes said that General GRANT, as commander-in-chief, also desired this disposition of sunken vessels—but that assertion has been often denied. At all events, navigation was effectually prevented, our base made secure, and naval operations curtailed. The enemy, though a little surprised at the occurrence, lost no time in throwing up powerful works, with heavy batteries, to command the obstructions, so as to prevent their removal, should a time come when we felt strong enough to take them up, and risk our fleet against the enemy's. That time soon came, and the enemy's works were found very efficient. Of these, the most elaborate is a well-known battery at Howlett's House, opposite the southwestern extremity of Farrar's Island; thence strong entrenchments, running, along the westerly shore of the river to Drury's Bluff, have since been built.

Farrar's Island (so-called from its being *almost* surrounded by water) is a singular tongue of high land, around which the James bends, at a point about 12 miles distant from Richmond in an air line, and much farther as the tortuous river runs. Its narrow neck is only from 160 to 170 yards wide. A glance at the map would give any ordinary observer a desire to cut through the isthmus, and avoid the circuitous passage. The rapidity of the current around the peninsula, and the high winds almost always there prevalent, added to the great length of time required in passing the 13 extra miles, long since made it desirable to commercial men to cut a canal there like the present one. Indeed, a Richmond stock company once began the task; but, like many other Southern improvements, the scheme fell through. General BUTLER undertook it for the purpose of opening a passage for our iron-clads, avoiding the shoals at Trent's Reach, with the obstructions now fatally barring all naval exploits against Richmond. The movement would flank Howlett's battery also, and the others in that neighborhood. Should the canal permit the passage of our iron-clads, and the Rebel fleet there be destroyed, the works of the river could be shelled, and the fleet coöperate with the Army, to some extent.

The preliminary survey for the canal was made on the 7th of August, and workmen commenced digging three days later. At first, the detail was large; but it has varied from 500 to 50. General (then Major) LUDLOW took charge of military and excavating operations, Major MECHI superintending the engineering. The soil, which consisted of various strata of clay and sand, was removed not only by spades but by steam-dredging machines, some of the latter being destroyed, however, by the enemy's shells. He had promptly opened the Howlett battery, and, on the first day of the digging, his shells killed or wounded 35 men. Our casualties have been somewhat serious, reckoned altogether, but, after the first week, the working parties constructed elaborate shelters and bomb-proofs, and made their ungracious task more endurable. Batteries were erected by the enemy on Signal Hill above the canal, and mortars planted at Cox's Ferry, near its upper outlet. With these they still command it. Under this fire, often hot and dangerous, our men have been working four months at their task, and made a canal 522 feet long, about 120 feet wide at the top and 40 feet wide at the bottom, and about 70 feet deep. The water was expected to be 16 feet deep. The labor ended on the 1st of January with the grand explosion to which reference has already been made.

It will be very pleasant to hear that the canal, after so much expenditure, has been successfully put into operation. There are, however, several considerations which warn us not to be too sanguine of its advantages, in any case. First, it will require a long time yet to complete it. Next, it is not clear that our heavy gunboats, or those which are really fit to cope with the enemy's fleet and works, will ever get through. Thirdly, it appears evident that the enemy's works completely sweep the upper mouth of the canal, and a considerable part of its extent. Finally, there is no reason why obstructions may not be sunk above the canal, as well as below, at Cox's Landing as well as at Trent's Reach, and batteries as powerful as those at Howlett's planted to command them.

FROM three points, at least in the field of war, tidings of great interest may be expected. At Savannah, there is no question that SHERMAN, after the briefest pause for regulating the new city he has added to the Union, and for fitting up his troops and his baggage wagons, will be on the march—very soon at all events, and perhaps before our paper goes to press. Doubtless, General FOSTER will receive the immediate command of Savannah which SHERMAN evacuates, adding it to his Department of the South. Probably, also, HOWARD's and SLOCUM's Armies—the famous "right and left wings"—will both go with SHERMAN, and General GEARY will probably turn over his present command to some general officer of FOSTER's department. The wagons will start full, and the troops already are singing "I'm off for Charleston." It is not difficult to conjecture that one of SHERMAN's columns, at least, will shortly be heard from on the railroad line between Augusta and Savannah.

THOMAS has taken a fresh start, it would seem, in Tennessee. The problem of entirely cutting off a defeated army in such a country as ours has never yet been solved. It is almost impossible to bring a large and well-appointed force to bay, and surround it, except when it is driven to water commanded by our gunboats, or is cooped up in a city across whose turnpikes and railroads we can draw our cordon. The flanking movement by way of Decatur, which STEEDMAN tried to execute against HOOD, was impeded by the state of the roads. The command of the Tennessee River is passing away from our gunboats by reason of the fall of the water; and HOOD's pontoons lie across Muscle Shoals. But it is a pleasant reflection that the rain which spoils the roads for THOMAS's pursuit, heightens the river for Admiral LEE to operate in. At present, the whole Army is in motion, according to the Delphic telegrams, "in a new direction."

Finally, the apparently scattered raids in Mississippi and Alabama, lately undertaken in succession by A. L. LEE, OSTRAND, DAVIDSON, ROBINSON, and GRANGER, are culminating in an interesting and important movement, which, unless appearances are very deceitful, bears straight on Mobile. After the affair at Wilmington, we shall learn not to give our hopes of Mobile too free a rein. But, after Savannah, we need despair of no city, if properly approached. And, at all events, the movement against Mobile will coöperate effectively with the great campaign in Tennessee, cutting HOOD's railroad line of supply, distracting his attention, and preventing his Army from reinforcement. It will probably draw him back still further into Alabama.

THE bursting of six 100-pounder Parrots on the vessels of the Wilmington fleet has had the effect to induce the Ordnance Department of the Navy to issue orders for the suspension of the further manufacture of these cannon until the cause of the bursting is fully discovered and proved to lie in no inherent defect of the ordnance themselves. It is to be feared, however, that the verdict of the competent board of investigation which has been appointed—consisting of Commodores R. B. HITCHCOCK, T. A. HUNT, and JOHN S. MISSROON, and Captains W. N. JEFFERS and J. H. AULICK—will be against the gun itself. It is no new thing, this discovery of the lack of endurance of Parrot's large calibres. General GILLMORE, in his report of the operations against the defences of Charleston harbor, describes six 200-pounder and seventeen 100-pounder Parrots which were expended by bursting, and he reviews with care the causes, inherent in the gun, which so interfered with endurance. It is scarcely possible to over-estimate the importance of thoroughly investigating this subject, now so sadly and so forcibly pressed upon our attention by the calamitous results of the premature bursting of the guns on Admiral PORTER's ships. For it should be remembered that we have at the present time upwards of one thousand Parrot rifled cannon on our vessels of war, and there are also hundreds of them in use in the Army. It is due, however, to the ingenious inventor to say that experience has shown his guns of smaller calibres to be both serviceable and enduring. The large guns are the doubtful weapons.

On the 23d of December the U. S. steamer *Acacia*, commanded by Acting Master Barrymore, off Cape Romain, captured the blockade-runner *Julie*, a steamer, with 400 bales of cotton on board, and other valuable freight. She was from Charleston, bound for Nassau.

ON LARGE CAST-IRON GUNS.

THE interest awakened by the previous extracts we have made from the advance sheets of General GILLMORE's Report induces us to continue them this week. We select the General's remarks on cast-guns of large size:

A safe and advantageous arrangement and distribution of the materials of a large cast-gun—particularly of a rifle-gun—to enable them to sustain the successive strains and shocks to which they will be subject in firing, is incompatible with the condition that the gun shall be composed of a single piece of homogeneous metal. With forged guns of good wrought-iron, like that from Salisbury, Connecticut, the case is somewhat different, particularly if the workmanship be such that the piece will not first give way at the welds. The greatest tensile strength and ductility of the metal are both brought into action. In firing, the bore of the gun rapidly receives a permanent enlargement, within the limit of rupture. The surrounding metal is thus placed under tension, and the piece strengthened to a certain extent. The further stretching of the bore, beyond the power of the metal to bear, is thereby prevented. In a wrought-iron gun there is very little enlargement of the bore after the first fifty rounds, if fired with heavy charges. Such guns should first be bored a little smaller—about two-tenths of an inch—than they are required to be, and should then be fired with a few large charges, and re-bored to the proper calibre.

The forces which act upon a gun, tending to destroy it, are due principally to the explosive force of the powder, and the expansion of the gun by heat.

In smooth-bore guns, the maximum force of the powder—or, in other words, the maximum pressure blowing out in front of the reinforce, was in consequence of the inadequate length of the latter.

It is known, from repeated experiments, that the distending strain upon the metal of a gun, at points equally distant from the muzzle—that is, within the same transverse circular section—varies inversely with the squares of the distances of those points from the axis of the bore. Thus, at five inches from the axis, the strain upon the metal would be about double what it would be at the distance of seven inches, or in the ratio of forty-nine to twenty-five.

If we suppose a cylinder to be made up of a great number of very thin concentric cylinders, in a condition of initial molecular repose, then the strain upon these several cylinders, due to any distending force equally distributed over the inner surface of the inner one, would vary inversely with the squares of their diameters.

Professor TREADWELL illustrates this law of diminution in the following manner:—

"If we make a cylinder of forty-one concentric hoops of equal thickness, disposed one within another, and exactly fitting, so that the particles of each hoop shall be in equilibrium with each other, the diameter of the largest being five times that of the smallest, then the force of each, beginning with the innermost, to resist distension, will be represented by the following numbers:—

1,000	250	111	52
826	225	104	59
694	207	98	56
591	189	92	54
510	174	87	51
444	160	82	49
391	148	77	47
346	137	73	45
309	128	69	45
277	119	65	41

There is another important fact deduced by mathematical calculation, and sustained by experiments in both this country and Europe, viz.: that no increase of thickness, however great, can enable a homogeneous cylinder to sustain a distending pressure from within on each square inch, exceeding the tensile strength of a bar of the material one inch square.

Hence it is useless to attempt to augment the strength of a gun by increasing its thickness beyond a certain point, "because," as Captain BLAKELY remarks, "in cast guns (whether of iron, brass or other metal), the outside helps very little in restraining the explosive force of the powder tending to burst the gun, the strain not being communicated to it by the intervening metal. The consequence is that, in large guns, the inside is split while the outside is scarcely strained. This split rapidly increases, and the gun ultimately bursts."

In other words, the exterior part of a homogeneous gun gives way to forces applied by wedging and levering, and not to a transmitted tensile strain.

We see, therefore, how inadequately the hooping of old and nearly expended guns accomplishes the object in view, of conferring upon them additional powers of endurance, since the exterior hoop simply reinforces metal that has not only never had its strength impaired by use, but is not liable to be brought under any strain exceeding that which it is well able to bear, except a splitting from the inside, which a hoop can but feebly, if at all, restrain.

The only apparently effective way to utilize the strength of the exterior, unimpaired metal of a cast-gun in which cracks have already appeared on the inside, is to replace a portion of the inside metal, throughout the entire length of the bore, by a tube of tough and elastic material, placed under slight compression by cooling the gun upon it.

Initial Tension.—We would conclude from the foregoing that if a gun be compounded of several thin concentric hoops, or cylinders, those on the exterior being under suitable initial tension, increasing according to a fixed law with their several distances from the common axis, so that the aggregate of the initial tension and transmitted strain, per square inch on each cylinder, would be just equal to the tensile strength per square inch bar of the metal, we would obtain a combination satisfying the requisite conditions of maximum strength against statical pressure; for a distending force which would rupture the inner cylinder, would rupture all the others at the same moment. The greater the number of cylinders, their aggregate thickness remaining constant, the greater would be the strength of the combination.

Varying Elasticity.—Let us take another view of the case. If the several thin cylinders be composed of metal possessing different degrees of elasticity, decreasing according to a fixed

law from the interior toward the exterior, so that those on the inside would, by their greater elastic expansion, transmit externally a distending strain of such intensity that the metal of the several cylinders would reach the limit of elasticity at the same moment, we would then have a combination of maximum statical strength, so long as the strain was not great enough to give the metal a permanent set; that is, so long as the elastic limit was not exceeded. When that point is reached, the advantages of varying elasticity partially disappeared, and are replaced, in a measure, by those of varying tension.

A cannon compounded of many concentric cylinders, combined on either of the foregoing principles of *initial tension* or *varying elasticity*, although possessing great theoretical strength, and although capable in practice of sustaining great statical pressure from within (great, indeed, in proportion to the the number of cylinders used for a given aggregate thickness), does not possess sufficient unity of form to withstand the repeated shocks of firing. While there must be, in some degree, a division of parts, in order that the conditions necessary to resist statical pressure may be imposed to a certain extent, there must also exist in canon the requisite continuity of mass and structure, to resist the instantaneous wave of force and other vibrations created in firing. Cannon are seldom constructed of as many as four cylinders; generally of not more than two or three.

Captain BLAKELY has attempted to combine the distinct advantages of *varying elasticity* and *initial tension* by using three tubes. The two inner tubes are of steel, that possessing the greatest elasticity forming the bore, while the outer tube is of cast-iron, on which the trunnions are cast. The tubes are shrunk together, so that the outer one is under slight initial tension. The elastic limit of the inner steel is thus favored by bringing it under slight compression. Even should the steel tubes become permanently strained, the gun, if properly constructed, would not be weakened thereby, as the effect would be simply to increase the tension upon the cast-iron jacket. Captain PALLISER makes use of this principle in bringing his large guns under suitable tension on the exterior. He makes the inner tubes of soft metal, the most ductile one containing the bore, and then fires the gun with a charge that will permanently stretch the inside. The gun is then finished by re-boring to the proper calibre. Of course the exterior cylinder is thus placed under initial tension.

Major RODMAN, of the Ordnance Department United States Army, recommends a method, now extensively followed, for placing the metal of cast-iron guns under the proper conditions of initial tension, by casting them hollow and cooling them from the inside; a process which is inapplicable to steel guns, which have to undergo annealing.

In 1856 Professor TREADWELL proposed a method of "constructing cannon of a large calibre," of several tubes, the inner one, containing the breech, being of cast-iron about half a calibre in thickness. Upon this he placed "rings or hoops of wrought-iron, in one, two, or more 'layers,'" by screwing them on. For that purpose a screw or thread was cut upon the exterior of the inner, or cast-iron tube, and upon the interior and exterior of the other tubes, except the outside of the outer one. The hoops are about one-thousandth part of their diameter less than the parts they envelope, and are screwed to their places while hot, to secure the proper tension.

Whether the tubes of a compound gun should be put together on Professor TREADWELL's plan, with screws, or whether a more simple and less expensive method of combination will give the requisite unity of form, is still a question of discussion. For reasons which will not be given here, it is believed that screws are unnecessary, especially when the trunnions are placed upon the outer tube, as in the Blakely and Whitworth guns.

Effects of Heat.—The heat, generated by the burning charge, induces or increases compression on the inside and tension on the outside of a gun; and therefore, within certain undefined limits, strengthens the piece against a distending strain. Another kind of strain is brought upon the exterior of the gun, by the expansion of the bore longitudinally. Against this, a gun composed of two or more tubes can accommodate itself, with less danger of injury to the exterior than if made from a single piece of metal, for the interior tube, instead of forcing the exterior to elongate with it, or yield to rupture, slips through it.

The composition of the armament of land batteries for channel defence, in the present condition of the great question of ships against forts, should, of course, have special reference to the defence against armored vessels. The best proportion for the two kinds—rifles and smooth-bore; the most advantageous calibre for smooth-bore, whether large or medium size, or a mixture of both, are questions upon which a diversity of opinions exist among military and naval men: The invention of a large gun of 12 or 15-inch calibre sufficiently strong to be used effectively as a rifle, and rifled in such a manner as would not impair its qualities as a smooth-bore, would be a great advance in artillery. With such a gun, heavy elongated projectiles would be used with comparatively low velocities, at either long or short range, for their smashing effect upon armor: while solid steel or cast-iron spheres, and bolts and long percussion shells at high velocities, would be very destructive in cutting and punching through armor, and also upon the men and guns and machinery inside.

Batteries for channel and harbor defence should contain some—but in what proportion I am not prepared to suggest—of the largest calibres that can be maneuvered with ease and rapidity. For cutting through unimpaired armor at short range, in order to reach vital parts within as quickly as possible, smaller calibres are better, as they will stand greater relative charges, and yield higher velocities safely.

The Hartford (Ct.) Post says: "At the dinner of the Morgan street school, Tuesday evening, there sat down a bright-eyed boy of about sixteen years, who one year ago sat at the same table ragged, dirty and poor. Tuesday he was clean and well clothed, and, besides this, has a bank account of over two thousand dollars, invested by Allen Francis at his request. He enlisted last spring in the Navy, and this money is his share of the prize money distributed among the crew of his ship."

TO DISABLED AND RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

It has long been agitated, that a colony of officers should be established, in some fitting locality, where they might enjoy the greatest possible amount of independence and comfort, according to the standard of their previous life, and on the limited means now at their disposal. It is proposed that sufficient officers should combine, in order to found such a community in the vicinity of West Point—a locality that probably more than any other in the country would answer the purposes designed, on account of accessibility to those conveniences of society, of which Army service has long deprived them.

Some such plan as this is indicated as a starting point.

I. That a certain number—as many as possible—enter into an understanding and agreement to carry out the objects of the community, under such restrictions as may be deemed essential to the success of its establishment.

II. Let lands be selected and purchased. It is believed that excellent sites can be procured at attainable rates. An average of two or three acres per member, will probably be sufficient—the right of extension being secured. Let these grounds be tastefully laid out—fruit trees and vines be planted freely—a common vegetable garden be arranged for, as at military posts—and such general preparation be made as may be necessary.

III. Let the construction of the residences be contracted for, as many together as possible. By judicious supervision on the part of some officer, such buildings would be had at moderate rates. And cottages, devoid of pretension, but comfortable and substantial, can be constructed much more cheaply than is usually imagined.

IV. By adopting certain joint-stock features, many conveniences, otherwise too costly to be reached, may be ensured. Schools, libraries, reading-room, billiard tables, livery stable, etc., etc., are of this nature.

V. There are doubtless many who, after long years of service under every possible disadvantage, have been unable to put aside, for the "rainy day," sufficient to enable them to make a home for themselves, and whose retired pay is insufficient for any such purpose. It is believed that funds can be readily obtained, at low rates, that will, by proper management on the part of a judicious superintendent, or agency, accomplish all that is wished at the most moderate rental. Indeed, it will perhaps suffice that the land alone should be purchased, leaving the buildings subject to some such mode of realization.

VI. A nucleus once formed, and there would probably be a rapid segregation of similar society—at the option of the original founders—charities for the benefit of the widows and orphans of meritorious officers would naturally gather near. The best wishes of the country would accompany the efforts of a well-managed plan for the benefit of those to whom this is addressed.

There are certainly many, already retired, who would be glad to find such an asylum: then there are many now, in service, who would look forward to such a home and such society, when this war shall have ended, with the greatest longing: there are many families of officers, who would gladly seek the protection of Army friends under the circumstances here suggested.

Correspondence on the subject is invited. Should ten or twelve be willing to move in the matter, there is little reason why some plan should not promptly be carried into effect.

T. SEYMOUR,

Brig.-Gen. U. S. Vols.

THIRD DIVISION SIXTH CORPS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

MR. DAVIS ON THE CANADIAN RAIDS.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Dec. 22.]

BY AUTHORITY—CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS, it has been made known to me that BENNETT G. BURLEY, an Acting Master in the Navy of the Confederate States, is now under arrest in one of the British North American provinces, on an application made by the Government of the United States for the delivery to that Government of the said BENNETT G. BURLEY, under the treaty known as the Extradition Treaty, now in force between the United States and Great Britain; and whereas, it has been represented to me that the said demand for the extradition of said BENNETT G. BURLEY is based on the charge that the said BURLEY is a fugitive from justice, accused of having committed the crimes of robbery and piracy in the jurisdiction of the United States; and whereas, it has further been made known to me that the accusations and charges made against the said BENNETT G. BURLEY are based solely on the acts and conduct of said BURLEY in an enterprise or expedition, made or attempted in the month of September last (1864), for the capture of the steamer *Michigan*, an armed vessel of the United States, navigating the lakes on the boundary line between the United States and the said British North American Provinces, and for the release of numerous citizens of the Confederate States, held as prisoners of war by the United States at a certain island called Johnson's Island; and whereas, the said enterprise or expedition for the capture of the said armed steamer *Michigan* and for the release of the said prisoners on Johnson's Island was a proper and legitimate belligerent operation, undertaken during the pending public war between the two confederacies, known respectively as the Confederate States of America and the United States of America; which operation was ordered, directed and sustained by the authority of the government of the Confederate States, and confided to its commissioned officers for execution, among which officers is the said BENNETT G. BURLEY.

Now, therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America, do hereby declare and make known to all whom it may concern, that the expedition aforesaid, undertaken in the month of September last, for the capture of the armed steamer *Michigan*, a vessel of war of the United States, and for the release of the prisoners of war, citizens of the Confederate States of America, held captive by the United States of America at Johnson's Island, was a belligerent expedition ordered and undertaken under the authority of the Confederate States of America, against the United States of America, and that the Government of the Confederate States of America assumes the responsi-

bility of answering for the acts and conduct of any of its officers engaged in said expedition, and especially of the said BENNETT G. BURLEY, an Acting Master in the Navy of the Confederate States.

And I do further make known to all whom it may concern, that in the orders and instructions given to the officers engaged in said expedition, they were specially directed and enjoined to "abstain from violating any of the laws and regulations of the Canadian or British authorities in relation to neutrality," and that the combination necessary to effect the purpose of said expedition "must be made by Confederate soldiers and such assistance as they might (you may) draw from the enemy's country."

In testimony whereof I have signed this manifesto, and directed the same to be sealed with the seal of the Department of State of the Confederate States of America, and to be made public.

Done at the city of Richmond, on the 24th day of December, 1864.

By the President,
J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

ATTACK UPON FORT FISHER.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF REAR-ADmirAL PORTER.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN, AT SEA OFF NEW INLET, N. C., Dec. 26, 1864.

Sir:—I was in hopes I should have been able to present to the nation Fort Fisher and surrounding works as a Christmas offering, but I am sorry to say it has not been taken yet.

I attacked it on the 24th inst., with the *Ironsides*, *Canonicus*, *Mahopac*, *Monadnock*, *Minnesota*, *Colorado*, *Mohican*, *Tucumcari*, *Wabash*, *Susquehanna*, *Brooklyn*, *Pawtucket*, *Juniata*, *Seneca*, *Shenandoah*, *Pocatello*, *Ticonderoga*, *Mackinaw*, *Maumee*, *Fantic*, *Kansas*, *Iroquois*, *Quaker City*, *Monticello*, *Rhode Island*, *Sassacus*, *Chippewa*, *Oscoda*, *Tacumy*, *Pomona*, *Santiago de Cuba*, *Port Jackson*, and *Vanderbilt*, having a revenue of six hundred vessels consisting of the *Ariel*, *Hoquah*, *Wilderness*, *Cherokee*, *A. D. Vance*, *Anemone*, *Eolus*, *Gettysburg*, *Alabama*, *Keystone State*, *Buckee*, *Emmet*, *Lillian*, *Tricent*, *Shandy*, *Britannia*, *Governor Buckingham*, and *Nansemond*.

Previous to making the attack, a torpedo on a large scale, with an amount of powder on board supposed to be sufficient to explode the powder magazines of the fort, was prepared with great care, and placed under the command of Commander A. C. Rhind, who had associated with him on this perilous service Lieutenant C. W. Preston, Second Assistant Engineer A. T. E. Mullan, of the United States steamer *Agawam*, and Acting Master's Mate Paul Boyden, and seven men. So much has been said and written about the terrible effects of gunpowder in an explosion that happened lately in England, that great results were expected from this novel mode of making war. Everything that ingenuity could devise was adopted to make the experiment a success.

The vessel was brought around from Norfolk with great care and without accident, in tow of the United States steamer *Sassacus*, Lieutenant Commander J. L. Davis, who directed his whole attention to the matter in hand, and though he experienced some bad weather and lost one of his rudders, he took her safely into Beaufort, where we filled her up with powder, and perfected all the machinery for blowing her up. General Butler had arrived at the rendezvous before us, and I hastened matters all that I could, so that no unnecessary delay might be laid to my charge.

On the 18th instant, I sailed from Beaufort with all the Monitors *New Ironsides* and small vessels, including the *Louisiana*, disguised as a blockade-runner, for the rendezvous, twenty miles east of New Inlet, N. C., and found all the larger vessels and transports assembled there, the wind blowing light from the N. E. On the 20th, a heavy gale set in from S. W., and not being able to make a port without scattering all the vessels, I determined to ride it out, which I did without any accident of any kind except the loss of a few anchors, the Monitors and all behaving beautifully.

Only two vessels went to sea to avoid the gale, and fared no better than those at anchor. The transports, being short of water, put into Beaufort, N. C., and were not suitable for riding out at anchor such heavy weather.

After the southwester, the wind changed around to the westward and gave us a beautiful spell of weather, which I could not afford to lose, and the transports with the troops not making their appearance, I determined to take advantage of it and attack Fort Fisher and its out-works.

On the 23d, I directed Commander Rhind to proceed and explode the vessel right under the walls of Fort Fisher, Mr. Bradford, of the Coast Survey, having gone in at night and ascertained that we could place a vessel of seven feet draft right on the edge of the beach. Lieutenant R. H. Lamson, commanding *Gettysburg*, volunteered to go in with the *Wilderness*, Acting Master Henry Avery in command, and tow the *Louisiana* into position, having assisted in the gale in taking care of the *Louisiana* after she and the *Nansemond* (the vessel having her in tow) had lost all their anchors.

At 10:30 P. M., the powder vessel started in towards the bar and was towed by the *Wilderness* until the embrasures of Fort Fisher were plainly in sight. The *Wilderness* then cast off, and the *Louisiana* proceeded under steam until within two hundred yards from the beach, and about four hundred from the fort.

Commander Rhind anchored her securely there and coolly went to work to make all his arrangements to blow her up. This he was enabled to do owing to a blockade-runner going in right ahead of him, the fort making the blockade-runner signals, which they also did to the *Louisiana*.

The gallant party, after coolly making all their arrangements for the explosion, left the vessel, the last thing they did being to set her on fire under the cabin. Then taking to their boats, they made their escape off to the *Wilderness*, lying close by. The *Wilderness* then put off shore with good speed, to avoid any ill effects that might happen from the explosion. At forty-five minutes past one of the morning of the 24th, the explosion took place, and the shock was nothing like so severe as was expected. It shook the vessel some, and broke one or two glasses, but nothing more.

At daylight on the 24th, the fleet got under way, and stood in, in line of battle. At 11:30 A. M., the signal was made to engage the fort, the *Ironsides* leading, and the *Monadnock*, *Canonicus*, and *Monadnock* following. The *Ironsides* took her position in the most beautiful and seamlike manner, got her spring out, and opened deliberate fire on the fort, which was firing at her with all its guns, which did not seem numerous in the northeast face, though we counted what appeared to be seventeen guns; but four or five of these were fired from that direction, and they were silenced almost as soon as the *Ironsides* opened her terrible battery.

The *Minnesota* then took her position in handsome style, and her guns, after getting the range, were fired with rapidity, while the *Mohican*, *Colorado*, and the large vessels marked on the plan, got to their stations, all firing to cover themselves while anchoring. By the time the last of the large vessels anchored and got their batteries into play, but one or two guns of the enemy were fired, this "feu d'envir" driving them all to their bombs-buoys.

The small gunboats *Kansas*, *Unadilla*, *Pepin*, *Seneca*, *Pontoosuc*, *Fantic*, and *Huron* taking a position to the northward and eastward of the Monitors, and enshading the works.

The *Shenandoah*, *Ticonderoga*, *Mackinaw*, *Tacumy*, and *Vanderbilt* took effective positions as marked on the chart, and added their fire to that already begun.

The *Santiago de Cuba*, *Port Jackson*, *Oscoda*, *Chippewa*, *Sassacus*, *Rhode Island*, *Monticello*, *Quaker City*, and *Iroquois* dropped into position according to order, and the battle became general. In one hour and fifteen minutes after the first shot was fired, not a shot came from the fort. Two magazines had been blown up by our shells, and the fort set on fire in several places, and such a torrent of missiles were falling into and bursting over it that it was impossible for anything human to stand it. Finding that the batteries were silenced completely, I directed the ships to keep up a moderate fire, in hopes of attracting the attention of the transports and bringing them in. At sunset, General Butler came in, in his flagship, with a few transports (the rest not having arrived from Beaufort).

Being too late to do anything more, I signalled the fleet to retire for the night for a safe anchorage, which they did without being molested by the enemy.

There were some mistakes made this day when the vessels went in to take position. My plan of battle being based upon accurate calculation, and made from information to be relied on, was placed in the hands of

each commander, and it seemed impossible to go astray if it was strictly followed.

I required those vessels that had not followed it closely to get under way and assume their proper positions, which was done promptly and without confusion. The vessels were placed somewhat nearer to the works, and were able to throw in their shell, which were before falling into the water.

One or two leading vessels having made the mistake of anchoring too far off, caused those coming after them to commit a like error; but when they all got into place and commenced work in earnest, the shower of shell (115 per minute) was irresistible. So quickly were the enemy's guns silenced that not an officer or man was injured. I regret, however, to have to report some severe casualties by the bursting of 100-pounder Parrott cannon.

One burst on board the *Ticonderoga*, killing six of the crew and wounding seven others. Another burst on board the *Fantic*, killing one officer and two men. Another on the *Juniata*, killing two officers, and wounding and killing ten others. Another on the *Mackinaw*, killing one officer and wounding five others (men). Another on the *Quaker City*, wounding, I believe, two or three. Another on the *Susquehanna*, killing and wounding seven. I think.

The bursting of the guns (six in all) much disconcerted the crews of the vessels when the accident happened, and gave one and all a great distrust of the Parrott 100-pounders, and (as subsequent events proved) they were unfit for service, and calculated to kill more of our men than those of the enemy.

Some of the vessels were struck once or twice. The *Mackinaw* had her boiler perforated with a shell, and ten or twelve persons were badly scalded.

The *Oscoda* was struck with a shell near her magazine, and was at one time in a sinking position, but her efficient commander stopped up the leak, while the *Mackinaw* fought out the battle, notwithstanding the damage she received. The *Fantic* was the only vessel that left the line to report damage.

Comm under John Guest, at the east end of the line, showed his usual intelligence in selecting his position and directing his fire. Twice his guns cut down the flagstaff on the *Mound Battery*, and he silenced the guns there in a very short time, the *Keystone State* and *Quaker City* co-operating effectively.

Lieutenant Commander J. R. Davis, with both rudders disabled, got his vessel (the *Sassacus*) into close action, and assisted materially in silencing the works; and the *Santiago de Cuba* and *Port Jackson* took such positions as they could get (owing to other vessels not forming proper lines) and throwing them out of place) and fought their guns well. The taking of a new position while under fire, by the *Brooklyn* and *Colorado* was a beautiful sight, and when they got into place, both ships delivered a fire that nothing could withstand.

The *Brooklyn* well sustained her proud name under her present commander, Captain James Alden; and the *Colorado* gave evidence that her commander, Comm dore H. K. Thatcher, fully understood the duties of his position. The *Susquehanna* was most effective in her fire, and was fortunate enough to obtain the right position, though much bothered by a vessel near her that had not found her right place.

The *Mohican* went into battle gallantly and fired rapidly and with effect, and when the *Pawtucket*, *Ticonderoga*, and *Shenandoah* got into their positions, they did good service. The *Pocatello* fell handsomely into line, and did good service with the rest, and the *Vanderbilt* took position near the *Minnesota* and threw in a splendid fire. The firing of the Monitors was excellent, and when their shells struck, great damage was done, and the little gunboats that covered them kept up a fire sufficient to disconcert the enemy's aim.

The Rebel fired no more after the vessels all opened on them, except a few shots from the mound and upper batteries, which the *Fonic* and consorts soon silenced.

Our men were at work at the guns five hours, and glad to get a little rest. They came out of action with rather a contempt for Rebel batteries, and anxious to renew the battle in the morning.

On the 25th (Christmas) all the transports had arrived, and General Butler sent General Weitzel to see me and arrange the programme for the day. It was decided that we should attack the fort again, while the Army landed and assaulted them, if possible, under our heavy fire.

I sent 17 gunboats, under command of Captain O. S. Glisson, to cover the troops and assist with their boats in landing the soldiers. Finding the smaller vessels kept too far from the beach, which was quite bold, I sent in the *Brooklyn* to set them an example, which that vessel did, relying, as every commander should, on the information I gave him in relation to the soundings. To this work was added all the small vessels that were covering along the coast; and finally I sent some 8 or 9 vessels, that were acting under Commander Guest in endeavoring to find a way across the bar. This gave a hundred small boats to land the troops with. Besides those, the Army was already provided with about 20 more.

At 7 A. M., on the 26th, I made signal to get under way and form in line of battle, which was quickly done. The order to attack was given and the *Ironsides* took position in her usual handsome style, the Monitors following close after her. All the vessels followed according to order, and took position without a shot being fired at them, excepting a few shots fired at the four last vessels that got into line.

The firing this day was slow, only sufficient to amuse the enemy while the Army landed, which they were doing five miles to the east of the fleet.

I suppose about three thousand men had landed, when I was notified they were re-embarking.

I could see our soldiers near the forts reconnoitering and sharpshooting, and was in hopes an assault was deemed practicable.

General Weitzel in person was making observations about 600 yards off, and the troops were in and around the works. One gallant officer, whose name I do not know, went on the parapet and brought away a Rebel flag we had knocked down. A soldier went into the works and led out a horse, killing the orderly mounted on him and taking his patches from the body. Another soldier fired his musket into the bomb-proof among the Rebels, and eight or ten others who had ventured near the fort were wounded by our shells.

As the ammunition gave out the vessels retired from action, and the iron-clads and *Minnesota*, *Colorado* and *Susquehanna* were ordered to open rapidly, which they did with such effect that it seemed to tear the works to pieces. We drew off at sunset, leaving the iron-clads to fire through the night, expecting the troops would attack in the morning, when we would commence again. I received word from General Weitzel informing me that it was impracticable to assault, and I herewith enclose a letter from General Butler assigning his reasons for withdrawing the troops. I also enclose my answer.

In the bombardment of the 25th the men were engaged firing slowly for seven hours. The rebels kept a couple of guns on the upper batteries firing on the vessels, hitting some of them several times without doing much damage. The *Wabash* and *Pawtucket* being within their range, the object seemed mainly to disable them, but a rapid fire soon closed them up. Everything was coolly and systematically done throughout the day, and I witnessed some beautiful practice.

The Army commenced landing about two o'clock, Captain Glisson, in the *Santiago de Cuba*, having shelled Flag Pond Battery to insure a safe landing, and they commenced to re-embark about five o'clock, the weather coming on thick and rainy. About a brigade were left on the beach during the night, covered by the gunboats. As our troops landed, sixty-five rebel soldiers hoisted the white flag and delivered themselves up, and were taken prisoners by the seamen landing the troops, and conveyed to the *Santiago de Cuba*. Two hundred and eighteen more gave themselves up to the reconnoitering party, all being desirous to quit the war.

I don't pretend to put my opinion in opposition to that of General Weitzel, who is a thorough soldier and an able engineer, and whose business it is to know more of assaulting than I do, but I can't help thinking that it was worth while to make the attempt after coming so far.

About 12 o'clock, I sent in a detachment of double-enderers under Commander John Guest, to see if I could effect an entrance through the channel. The great number of wrecks in and about the bar, has changed the whole formation, and where the original channel was, we found a shallow bar.

I sent Lieutenant W. B. Cushing in to sound and buoy out a channel if he could find one, with orders to Commander Guest to drag for torpedoes and be ready to run in by the buoys when ordered.

One boat belonging to the *Tacumy* was sunk by a shell, and a man had his leg cut off. Still they stuck to their work until ordered to withdraw for other duty. In conclusion, allow me to draw your attention to the conduct of Commander Rhind and Lieutenant Preston. They engaged in the most perilous adventure that was perhaps ever undertaken, and though no material results have taken place from the effects of the explosion, that we know of, still it was not their fault.

As an incentive to others, I beg leave to recommend them for promotion; also that of Lieutenant R. H. Lamson, who piloted them in and brought them off. No one in the squadron considered that their lives would be saved, and Captain Rhind and Lieutenant Preston had made an arrangement to sacrifice themselves in case the vessel was boarded—a thing likely to happen.

I enclose herewith the report of Commander Rhind, with the names of the gallant fellows who volunteered for this desperate service. Allow me also to mention the name of Mr. Bradford of the Coast Survey, who went in and sounded out the place where the *Louisiana* was to go in, and has always patiently performed every duty he has been called on to carry out.

My thanks are due to Lieutenant Commander K. R. Breeze, fleet captain, for carrying about my orders to the fleet during the action, and for his general usefulness; to Lieutenant Commander H. A. Adams, for his promptness in supplying the fleet with ammunition. Lieutenant M. W. Sanders, signal officer, whose whole time was occupied in making signals, performed his duty well; and my aides, Lieutenant S. W. Terry and Lieutenant S. W. Preston, afforded me valuable assistance.

I have not yet received a list of the casualties, but believe they are very few from the enemy's guns. We had killed and wounded about forty-five persons by the bursting of the Parrott guns.

I must not omit to pay a tribute to the officers and crew of the Monitors—rising out heavy gales on an open coast, without murmuring or complaining of the want of comfort, which must have been very serious. They have shown a degree of fortitude and perseverance seldom witnessed. Equally brave in battle, they take the closest work with pleasure, and the effect of their shells is terrible.

The following are the names of the Commanders, and I hope I shall ever keep them under my command:

Commander E. G. Parrott, commanding *Monadnock*; Commander E. R. Calhoun, commanding *Saugus*; Lieutenant Commander George E. Belknap, commanding *Cononicus*; Lieutenant Commander E. E. Potter, commanding *Makah*.

There are about one thousand men left on shore by the Army who have not been got off yet, on account of the surf on the beach. These will be got off in the morning, and the soldiers will then be sent home.

I enclose general order for the attack.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

HON. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

LETTER OF GENERAL BUTLER TO ADMIRAL PORTER.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, Dec. 25, 1864.

ADMIRAL: Upon landing the troops and making a thorough reconnaissance of Fort Fisher, both General Weitzel and myself are fully of the opinion that the place could not be carried by assault, as it was left substantially uninjured as a defensive work by the Navy fire. We found seventeen guns protected by traverses, two only of which were dismounted, bearing up the beach and covering a strip of land, the only practicable route, not more than wide enough for a thousand men in line of battle.

Having captured Flag Pond Battery, the garrison of which, sixty-five men and two commissioned officers, were taken off by the Navy, we also captured Half Moon Battery and seven officers and two hundred and eighteen men of the Third N. C. Junior Reserves, including its commander, from whom I learned that a portion of Hook's division, consisting of Kirkland's and Haygood's brigades, had been sent from the lines before Richmond on Tuesday last, arriving at Wilmington Friday night.

General Weitzel advanced his skirmish line within fifty yards of the fort, while the garrison was kept in their bomb-proof by the fire of the Navy, and so closely that three or four men of the picket line ventured upon the parapet and through the Sally port of the works, capturing a horse, which they brought off, killing the orderly, who was the bearer of a dispatch from chief of artillery of General Whiting to bring a light battery within the fort, and also brought away from the parapet the flag of the fort.

This was done while the shells of the Navy were falling about the heads of the daring men who entered the work, and it was evident, as soon as the fire of the Navy ceased because of the darkness, that the fort was fully manned again and opened with grape and canister upon our picket line.

Finding that nothing but the operations of a regular siege, which did not come within my instructions, would reduce the fort, and in view of the threatening aspect of the weather, wind arising from the southeast, rendering it impossible to make further landing through the surf, I caused the troops with their prisoners to re-embark, and see nothing further that can be done by the land forces. I shall therefore sail for Hampton Roads as soon as the transport fleet can be gotten order.

My engineers and officers report Fort Fisher to me as substantially uninjured as a defensive work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, Major-General Commanding.

To Rear-Admiral Porter, Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

ADMIRAL PORTER'S REPLY.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN, Off NEW INLET, Dec. 26, 1864.

GENERAL: I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, the substance of which was communicated to me by General Weitzel last night.

I have ordered the largest vessels to proceed off Beaufort, and fill up with ammunition, to be ready for another attack in case it is decided to proceed with this matter by making other arrangements.

We have not commenced firing rapidly yet, and could keep any Rebels inside from showing their heads until an assaulting column was within twenty yards of the works.

I wish some more of your gallant fellows had followed the officer who took the flag from the parapet, and the brave fellow who brought the horse out from the fort. I think they would have found it an easier conquest than is supposed.

I do not, however, pretend to place my opinion in opposition to General Weitzel, whom I know to be an accomplished soldier and engineer, and whose opinion has great weight with me.

I will look out that the troops are all off in safety. We will have a west wind presently, and a smooth beach about three o'clock, when sufficient boats will be sent for them.

The prisoners now on board the *Santiago de Cuba* will be delivered to the Provost-Marshal at Fortress Monroe, unless you wish to take them on board one of the transports, which would be inconvenient just now.

I remain, General, respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

OFFICERS AND MEN ON THE POWDER VESSEL LOUISIANA.

Commander A. C. Rhind concludes his report as follows:

Commander A. C. Rhind.

ders No. 53, series of 1863, from the War Department, having reported that they are exempt for the causes set opposite their respective names.

First Lieutenant Frank Kimball, 75th U. S. Colored Troops, he having been previously honorably discharged on account of physical disability by Special Orders No. 409, November 21, 1864, from this office.

Second Lieutenant H. C. Grossman, 138th Pennsylvania Vols., he having made satisfactory defense before a board of officers convened in the field.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.

The following officers, having been reported at the headquarters of the Army for the offences hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand dismissed the service of the United States unless within fifteen (15) days from Jan. 2, 1865, they appear before the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier-General John C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defense to the charge against them:

Fraudulent conduct in the enlistment of recruits, and asking money of them for services rendered in procuring them bounty.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Watson, 106th New York Vols.

For defrauding men enlisted by him of their local bounty.

Captain Timothy Pearson, 15th Massachusetts battery.

Absence without leave.

First Lieutenant F. D. Martin, 52d New York Vols.

Captain Hugh F. Ozone, 170th New York Vols.

Captain Oscar F. Wisner, 22d New York Cavalry.

Captain Martin Langhlin, 16th New York Artillery.

Chaplain Samuel Day, 8th Illinois Veteran Vols.

First Lieutenant David K. Mitchell, 119th Pennsylvania Vols.

First Lieutenant Michael M. McIntyre, 3d Michigan Cavalry.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain John H. Burton, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, who has been in command of Battery No. 4, on Jordan Farm, has been mustered out of the service, his term of service having expired.

Lieutenant-Colonel John L. Le Conte, Medical Inspector U. S. A., has permission to visit Washington, D. C., to attend the meeting of the National Academy of Science.

George R. Trumbull, of Hartford, Conn., who has been in the Regular Army since last August, has been promoted to be First Lieutenant in the Tenth Connecticut Volunteers, and ordered to join his regiment.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Surgeon Nathan P. Rice, U. S. V., relieved from duty in the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and ordered to the Middle Department.

Surgeon George S. Kemble, U. S. V., assigned to duty as Medical Director Department of the Mississippi.

Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. McParlin, U. S. A., according to his brevet rank.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Surgeon C. C. Cox, U. S. V.

Surgeon Jonathan Letterman, U. S. A.

Assistant Surgeon Benjamin Howard, U. S. A.

Assistant Surgeon Edward O. Strooke, U. S. A.

NAVY GAZETTE.

DISPATCH FROM ADMIRAL LEE.

FLAGSHIP FAIRY, CHICKASAW, ALA., December 27.

HON. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy:

I have destroyed a new fort at this point, and all the enemy's visible means of crossing the Tennessee below Florence, and to-day blew up two caissons and destroyed two field-pieces there—knocking one into the river, the other into pieces.

Several transports, with supplies for General Thomas, arrived here to-day. I find from the General's dispatches that my movements have been in good time to meet his movements.

Hood's army is reported broken up, and its parts cannot cross at or below Florence, unless the river falls seriously. It is now falling, which made it impracticable to-day to reach the crossing above Little Muscle Shoals, six miles above Florence.

S. P. LEE, Rear-Admiral.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Carpenter John W. Stinson to the *Constellation*.

Second Assistant Engineer Albert Jackson to the *Spira*.

Captain John B. Marchand to duty at the Baltimore Naval Station.

Paymaster Frank C. Cosby to the *Alleghany*, and also as Inspector in charge of stores at the Baltimore Naval Station.

Sailmaker Theodore C. Herbert to the Baltimore Naval Station.

First Assistant Engineer William D. Pendleton to duty as Assistant to Chief Engineer John S. Albert at the Morgan Alair Novelty and New York Steam Engine Establishment for duty.

DETACHED.

Carpenter Joseph D. Pinner from the *St. Marys*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home.

Assistant Surgeon Edward R. Dodge from the West Gulf Squadron, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Assistant Surgeon Thomas N. Penrose from the *Massachusetts*, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Carpenter John A. Dixon from the *Constellation*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the *St. Marys*.

Assistant Surgeon Edward D. Payne from the West Gulf Squadron, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Lieutenant-Commander William M. Gamble from the Naval Rendezvous, Brooklyn, N. Y., on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Commander J. W. A. Nicholson from the *Manhattan*, and waiting orders.

Paymaster T. H. Looker from special duty at Baltimore, Md., and waiting orders.

Passed Assistant Surgeon A. Hudson from the *Onondaga*, and ordered to the *Sabine*.

Passed Assistant Surgeon H. M. Wells from the *Sabine*, and ordered to the *Onondaga*.

Second Assistant Engineer Edward Gay from the *Tacony*, and placed on sick leave.

Commander George M. Colvocoresses from the command of the *Dacotah*, and ordered to command the *Wachusett*.

Commander Napoleon Collins from the command of the *Wachusett*, and waiting orders.

Sailmaker James G. Gallagher from duty at the Baltimore Naval Station, on the reporting of his relief.

ORDERS REVOKED.

Captain J. B. Marchant to duty at the Naval Station, Baltimore, Md., and ordered to duty under direction of Rear-Admiral Gregory at New York city.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Surgeon Alexander M. Vedder, of the *Jamestown*, East Indies.

Midshipman Bowdall Brown, of the Naval Academy.

Midshipman Walter H. Fox, of the Naval Academy.

VOLUNTEER NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Acting Assistant Paymaster W. W. Bassett, to the *Palace*.

Acting Master J. S. Williams, to the *Spira*.

Acting Ensign W. A. Byrnes, to the *Spira*.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant G. E. Nelson, to command the *Spira*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer James Hollingsworth, to the *Spira*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer John Mee, to the *Spira*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Henry J. Johnson, to the *Spira*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon E. H. Hutchins, to the *Massachusetts*.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer William Goff, to the *Merrimack*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer William Hopkins, to the *Merrimack*.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer John B. Dick, to the *Calypso*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer George M. Smith, to the *Calypso*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon W. H. Holmes, to the *Hibiscus*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon George M. Hatch, to the *Spira*.

Acting Master J. W. Stapleford, to the *Comus*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster A. F. Hubbard, to the *Commodore Hull*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Benjamin Abrahams, to the *Stettin*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster C. H. Boardman, to instruction at New York.

Acting Ensign F. A. Strandberg, to the *State of Georgia*.

DETACHED.

Acting Assistant Surgeon William Clandaniel, from the *Louisiana*, and ordered to the *Nipic*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Howard M. Rundlett, from the *John Adams*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North for examination for the position of Assistant Surgeon, U. S. N.

Acting Assistant Paymaster W. S. Creasy, from the *Palace*, and ordered North to settle accounts.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Joseph G. Ayres, from the *Ohio*, and ordered to the West Gulf Squadron.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Edward W. Seymour, from the *North Carolina*, and ordered to the West Gulf Squadron.

Acting Master's Mate Henry M. Upham, from the *Savannah*, and ordered to the *Massachusetts*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster George R. Watkins, from the receiving ship *Allegany*, and from the Naval Station, Baltimore, Md., on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Acting Ensign W. B. Trafant, from the Mississippi Squadron, and ordered to the *Shawmut*.

Acting Ensign George Smith, from the *Supply*, and ordered to the *Bat*.

Acting First Assistant Engineer Charles O. Morgan, from the *Grand Gulf*, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron.

Acting Assistant Paymaster C. M. Burns, Jr., from the *Stettin*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to settle accounts.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Jonathan Chapman, from the *Commodore Hull*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to settle accounts.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer Thomas W. Hineline, from the *Victoria*, and granted sick leave.

APPOINTED.

Charles O. Hodgdon, of Dixon, Ill., and Rufus McConnell, of Warren, Ohio, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.

William Braidwood, of the *Chiso*, Acting First Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Aaron Hoag Showerman, of New York, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Spira*.

Walter A. Webster, Edward G. Park, Robert B. Lincoln, Jr., of Boston, Mass., Alonso D. Parsons and John M. Young, of Charlestown, Mass., Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the West Gulf Squadron.

William H. Coo, of U. S. Army General Hospital, Beverly, N. J., Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *John Adams*.

H. D. Jones, of Baltimore, Md., Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to the *Savannah*.

George Dennis, of Boston, Mass., Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to instruction at New York.

William Nelson Gilbert, of Brooklyn, N. Y., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Calypso*.

Michael T. Harrigan, of Stoneham, Mass., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Circassian*.

William Thompson, of Philadelphia, Pa., Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Charles W. Creasy, of Troy, New York, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.

J. E. N. Graham of the *Circassian*, Acting Ensign, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Benjamin C. Bourne, of the *Iuka*, Acting First Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain in the East Gulf Squadron.

Humphrey Gingling, of New Brunswick, New Jersey, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Fort Morgan*.

Charles Parker, Private Co. B, 9th Maine Vols., 10th Army Corps, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron.

Samuel B. Ellis, of Washington, D. C., Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Hesiod*.

Charles H. Pennington, of Washington, D. C., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Republic*.

Charles S. Cobb, Francis M. Kennedy, of Plymouth, Mass., Joseph W. Goff, of Dighton, Mass., Isaac S. Evans, of Malden, Mass., Charles D. Wrightington, of Fairhaven, Mass., and Corey C. Freeman, of Boston, Mass., Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron.

William C. King, of the *Faith*, Acting Ensign, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

CONFIRMED.

Acting Ensign Charles C. Dunbar, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Ensigns A. J. Kendall and Henry Richdal, and ordered to remain in the East Gulf Squadron.

Acting Ensign John D. Thomas, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Ensign Alfred F. McIntyre, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Ensign George P. Cassidy, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate Allen W. Snow, and ordered to instruction at New York.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles H. West.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer George A. Slight.

Acting Master John Dillingham.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Isaac Johnson.

Acting Master's Mate W. H. Hathorne.

Acting Master's Mate Charles S. McCarty.

Acting Master's Mate John C. Constant.

DISMISSED.

Acting Assistant Surgeon William J. Gilfillan, of the *Nipic*.

Acting gunner James Finnigan.

Acting Master's Mate V. B. Gates, of the *Saranac*.

Acting Master's Mate John Thompson, of the *Mistletoe*, Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Master and Pilot William Jones, of the West Gulf Squadron.

Acting Ensign John N. Yeaton, of the *Niagara*.

Acting Ensign W. H. Thomas.

APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer James H. Eppes.

PROMOTED.

Acting Ensign Henry Taylor, of the *Lemee*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, for the week ending December 31, 1864:

John L. Folman, Seaman, January 13, U. S. Hospital, Donaldsonville, La.

George Smith, Ordinary Seaman, June 19, U. S. Ram *Samoa*.

Derrick Rose, (colored), Fireman, July 1, U. S. steamer *Vindicator*.

Randolph Beattie, Landsman, July 13, U. S. steamer *Louisville*.

John Wippern, Seaman, July 15, U. S. steamer *Peri*.

John Roehard, Coal Heaver, July 27, U. S. steamer *Fawn*.

Oliver J. French, Landsman, August 3, U. S. steamer *Peri*.

Harvey C. Cox, Seaman, August 3, U. S. steamer *Gazelle*.

Michael Quarters, Seaman, August 29, U. S. steamer *Vindicator*.

Neal Williams, Landsman, September 1, U. S. steamer *Samson*.

Daniel Kennedy, Seaman, September 6, U. S. Revenue steamer *Great Western*.

John Broadbent, Seaman, September 7, U. S. steamer *Fawn*.

Jacob Campbell, Cabin Cook, September 22, U. S. steamer *Tyler*.

Jacob Williams, Landsman, September 22, U. S. steamer *Tyler*.

Cari Bauer, Seaman, September 22, U. S. steamer *Tyler*.</

SHERMAN.

To bold DAMOETRIUS, Greece, in tale and ditties,
Ascribed the title "Captures of Cities;"
Thine is the appellation, Russian DIBITSCH* bore,
"The Passer of the Mountains."
Despite of armies, guns, and all the craft of war—
Thou, who, like Leman-born impetuous Rhone,
Fed by far distant Alpine fountains,
Gorg'd by the furious winter rains,
Roll'd through the Appalachian chains,
Whirl'd, tore through Georgia's bulwark zone,
And, in a surge of men, of cannon, steel and flame,
Burst like a pent up flood on Macon's fertile plains.
"He who breaks through the Alleghanies" be thy
name
"Atlanta's taken," SHERMAN, expert in ROMAN*
game.

Not pipe, nor sweet recorder, nor yet Doric flute,
Nor ready hautboy shrill should swell the glad salute,
Which hails thy stooping like the Jovian bird of yore,
Bearing the lambent lightnings in thy mailed claw,
From the far inland mountains to Atlantic's shore:
All peaceful instruments be mute!
But sound the bold clarion's grand and startling note,
Such as the Saxon herald pour'd through war-horn's throat,
When HERMAN rose, and, in the Brunswick forest,
smote
The Roman legions' might, responsive to that roar;
Such be thy welcome, SHERMAN, to the OSSABAW!
Let kettle-drum and trump and cannon's shot join
With greetings fit, one wild magnificence of din,
Rivaling thunder,
Echo of thy flame-sheathed, death-fraught churm of war;
The cloud-wrapp'd rebel ramparts rent asunder,
Barriers to Freedom nevermore!

No single coronal can thy great feats requite!
With the encircled laurel, for triumphant fight,
Must we the grassy circle, oak leaf crown unite,
With graceful palm leaves interwoven,
To crown the brow that walls the mind,
Which, to preserve the North, the surest means divined:
Whose prescient skill and will our Gordian knot untied;
No ALEXANDER's falchion, long since, could divide;
Who stemmed and turned the tide on Shiloh's doubtful field;
Who, charging, dashed the sword—retreating, proved the shield;
Whose onward march of duty knew nor check nor pause;
Who thought, fought, wrought alike, was pregnant with the cause;
Who, without courting praise, won the whole land's applause;
Thou thunderbolt of strategy in bronze and fire,
With a galvanic brain, flashing o'er nerves like wires,
All the occasion needs, the battle's phase requires.
With mingled wonder and acclaim,
The voice of Freedom, Fatherland and all true men,
SHERMAN, to thee accord the fame,
Of Sweden's bold GUSTAVUS, Franco's calm TURMEE!

ANCHOR.

TIVOLI, December 12, 1864

* DIBITSCH ZADALKANSKI—i. e., Passer of the Balkan Mountains.
† HENRY, Prince de LEON, Duke de ROMAN, the great Huguenot General-in-Chief of the seventeenth century, stands pre-eminent as a master and teacher of the science of mountain warfare.

HOW WE BURY.

(From an Army of the Potomac Letter.)

THERE is, of course, no parade made in the putting away of our dead, but everything is done "decently and in order." A plain coffin is procured, and the deceased placed in it, prepared as decently for his eternal sleep as his habiliments will allow. In the coffin with him is put a bottle, and tightly corked; within it is a scrap of paper telling his name, rank, company and regiment, and date and cause of death. Every division hospital has its plot of ground for burial purposes, and in this the worn-out soldier is put to rest. The ceremony is always simple, always brief, but always touching, for around the grave are always gathered some few friends, and no matter how few, to them is read by the chaplain some of those terse passages which make up the Great Book. For them and for him who is gone a prayer is said, and then the earth reverently takes him to its bosom.

The practice of burying with the deceased the bottle containing information priceless to his surviving friends has grown into habitual usage at the Third Division (Fifth corps) hospital, presided over by Dr. REAMER, and I am informed it is fast becoming universal in the Army. In addition to this precaution, a headboard is always placed at the grave, giving the same facts; and a recent excellent order from General MEADE has prescribed the minutiae of burial, all the provisions tending to inculcate respect for the dead and consideration for the survivors, by giving the latter every possible facility for future identification.

ENGLISH VIEW OF OUR NAVY.—The London Times of December 21st regards American affairs as of so much importance, that it devotes two of its three leading articles to the department reports; and as between the Navy and the Treasury, it rather gives the precedence to the former. It gives Mr. WELLES great credit for the working of his Department during the war, thinks that he exaggerates the achievements of the Navy, that there have been good admirals before FARRAGUT, but finally makes the admission:

"But if we look impartially at the work which devolved suddenly upon the American Admiralty four years ago, at the resources which then existed for its performance, and at the manner in which it has been actually performed, we must admit that the tone of gratu-

lation pervading the Secretary's report is by no means without justification."

The Times is, of course, skeptical as to our iron-clads, and thinks it hard to decide when conflicting statements are so evidently based on personal feeling to some extent, and finds in our experience some argument for retaining the great Government establishments which it has been proposed in England to abandon. It finally censures Mr. WELLES for his remarks upon the Rebel cruisers, contrasting his words with "the moderation and candor observable in the language of President LINCOLN himself."

"Mr. WELLES must know full well that our Government could not have done more than it did to prevent the sailing of those vessels. The question of right itself was legally debatable, and even if it had not been, the means of evasion were so numerous that the efforts of any authorities might have been defeated."

The Quartermaster-General, under date of January 3d, publishes an order to the effect that, inasmuch as the armies operating against Richmond, and in the Shenandoah Valley, and the dismounted camps in the vicinity of Washington are amply supplied with horses for artillery and cavalry service, the Secretary of War has approved a recommendation from this office that further purchases of animals intended for such service be suspended at certain points. It is, therefore, directed that purchases of artillery and cavalry horses be suspended at the expiration of ten days from January 3d, and until otherwise ordered, at the following point: Washington, D. C. It is further directed that such purchases be also suspended at the following-named places, at such times and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the chief of the first division of the Quartermaster-General's office, viz.: Augusta, Maine; Brattleboro, Vermont; Boston, Massachusetts; Buffalo, New York; Albany, New York; Syracuse, New York; Elmira, New York; New York City, New York; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Trenton, New Jersey; and Wilmington, Delaware.

THE Special Committee of the Board of Supervisors of New York, having charge of the raising of volunteers, deem it inexpedient to increase the amount paid for volunteering, but will continue, as heretofore, to pay the sum of \$300 to the volunteer, and \$50 hand-money for three-year men; \$200 to the volunteer, and \$30 hand-money for two-year men; and \$100 to the volunteer, and \$20 hand-money for one-year men.

Gov. CURTIN, in his message to the Legislature, says that the troops sent into service from Pennsylvania during 1864 were 91,706, including 17,876 re-enlisted men. The whole number of troops from Pennsylvania since the commencement of the war, including the ninety days' militia, is 336,444, besides 25,000 militia furnished in 1862.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary of War.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton—2d floor War Department.

Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. P. H. Watson and Hon. C. A. Dana—Offices, 3d floor War Department.

General-in-Chief.

Office—in charge of Captain G. K. Lee, Assistant Adjutant General, 2d Winder's Building, 2d floor.

Chief of Staff.

Major General H. W. Halleck—corner F and 17th streets.

Adjutant General.

Brigadier General L. Thomas—War Department.

Bureau of Military Justice.

Brigadier General Joseph Holt, Judge Advocate General Winder's Building, corner F and 17th streets.

Judges Advocate.

Major L. G. Tuncer, Judge Advocate, Department of Washington, at 32d 17th street.

Theophilus Gaines, Major and Judge Advocate, 22d Army Corps—33d 14th street.

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BUREAU OF STEAM ENGINEERING.

December 9, 1864.

Sealed proposals will be received at this Bureau until meridian, January 10, 1865, for the Iron described in the following classes. Each bid must be made for an entire class, and the price to be a round sum for the class, delivered at the respective Navy Yards. No payment will be made until the whole is delivered; delivery to commence in twelve days after notification of acceptance of bid, to proceed continually, and the whole to be delivered in two months thereafter.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, the right being reserved of rejecting the lowest bid if it be deemed exorbitant.

The usual guarantees will be required, and the contract will be dated the day the notice of acceptance is given.

Printed schedules and instructions can be obtained by application to the Bureau.

Proposals must be directed to the "Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and endorsed "Proposals for Iron," that they may be distinguished from other business letters.

The following are the classes required at the respective Navy Yards:

WASHINGTON.

CLASS NO. 1.

36 plates	Bolier Iron, 7 1/8	46 by 98 inches.
30 do	do	3 1/2, 34 by 98 do
32 do	do	1 1/2, 43 by 98 do
32 do	do	1 1/2, 43 by 100 do
42 do	do	2 1/2, 30 by 110 do
12 do	do	3 1/2, 30 by 128 do
25 do	do	5 1/2, 40 by 98 do
15 do	do	7 1/2, 35 by 109 do
16 do	do	3 1/2, 39 by 109 do
16 do	do	5 1/2, 43 by 109 do
24 do	do	5 1/2, 46 by 56 do
22 do	do	2 1/2, 24 by 46 do
32 do	do	3 1/2, 28 by 46 do
12 do	do	7 1/2, 61 by 112 do
6 do	do	7 1/2, 61 by 90 do
22 do	do	7 1/2, 48 by 45 do
22 do	do	5 1/2, 43 by 78 do
24 do	do	5 1/2, 38 by 125 do
16 do	do	5 1/2, 42 by 136 do
16 do	do	5 1/2, 50 by 56 do
16 do	do	5 1/2, 43 by 54 do
16 do	do	5 1/2, 43 by 48 do
22 do	do	7 1/2, 50 by 114 do
28 do	do	3 1/2, 20 by 60 do
12 do	do	3 1/2, 50 by 109 do
12 do	do	5 1/2, 43 by 109 do
20 do	do	2 1/2, 30 by 120 do
12 do	do	5 1/2, 38 by 120 do

The above to be of the best American flange iron.

WASHINGTON.

CLASS NO. 2.

10,000 pounds best American square bar iron, 3/8 inch.

10,000 pounds best American square bar iron, 5/8 inch.

2,000 pounds best American square bar iron, 1/2 inch.

30,000 pounds best American flat bar iron, 2 1/2 by 3/8 inch.

5,000 pounds best American flat bar iron, 2 by 5/8 inch.

14,000 pounds best American flat bar iron, 2 by 1/2 inch.

1,000 pounds best American flat bar iron, 1 1/4 by 5/8 inch.

20,000 pounds best American round bar iron, 1 1/4 inch.

60,000 pounds best American round bar iron, 1 1/4 inch.

10,000 pounds best American round bar iron, 3/8 inch.

In lengths as may be required.

WASHINGTON.

CLASS NO. 3.

60,000 pounds best American T iron, 3 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches, 16 feet long.

WASHINGTON.

CLASS NO. 4.

4,000 pounds iron rivets, 1 1/2 to 16-inch diameter.

4,000 do do 1 1/2 to 11-16 do

4,000 do do 1 1/2 to 11-16 do

4,000 do do 2 by 11-16 do

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CLASS NO. 1.

224,000 pounds best American boiler flange iron, from 5 1/2 to 7 1/2-inch thick, in sheets of such dimensions as may be required.

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54,000 pounds best American round iron from 1 inch to 1 1/2 inch diameter, in lengths as may be required.

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CLASS NO. 3.

20,000 pounds best American T iron, 3 1/2 by 4 inches, the 3 1/2-inch part to be 3/8 inch thick, and the 4-inch part 1/4 inch thick. The length as may be required.

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CLASS NO. 4.

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"First. Did the shoulders or breast become chafed?

"Second. Was there any pain in the stomach from pressure of the box?

"Third. How did the weight of the cartridge-box affect them in comparison with the old?

"Fourth. Could they use their arms with more freedom?

"Fifth. Could they breathe with greater ease, and longer respiration?

"Sixth. Was the box in the way, or uncomfortable lying down?

"To these questions the following answers were given:-

"First. In no case was there any chafing or uncomfortable from the straps on the shoulders, no did it make them feel anything like so warm.

"Second. The weight of the box was not felt on the stomach, and no pain.

"Third. That the weight of the cartridge-box was not felt, and that they would rather carry one hundred rounds in that way than forty in the old.

"Fourth. The arms are entirely free, as much as if they had nothing on.

"Fifth. The coat can at all times be thrown open, and the fullest respiration can be obtained, the lungs having free scope.

"Sixth. The box was not in the way, and they could sleep comfortably with their accoutrements on.

"They are far more convenient in action. During the campaign my men were, from the sixth of May until the twentieth, without having their accoutrements off, day or night, but once; no complaints were heard of sore shoulders, breasts or stomachs, and men ruptured found them beyond all comparison easier than the old. The box does not interfere with the handling of the piece. I find that these accoutrements are scattered through this division—men threw away the old, and took these from the dead and wounded on the field. This one thing speaks more for them than any and all I can say."

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